

# Media release

October 31, 2011

## PETE MATTILA TO SHOWCASE THE ARTISTRY OF BLACKSMITHING



Internationally renowned blacksmith and artist Pete Mattila will showcase the artistry of blacksmithing as the Emerging Artist for the Tasmanian Craft Fair this weekend.

The Michigan-born artist has just returned from a six-month research trip and as an artist in residence in the US. During the Craft Fair, Mattila will describe and demonstrate (via an audio-visual display) forging processes as well as techniques for the patterning, tapering and twisting of steel. He will be available to discuss techniques and processes, and his recent experiences in the US.

“My work is a celebration of craftsmanship and what I see as the inherent beauty and possibility in forged steel processes,” says Mattila. “The Tasmanian Craft fair is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase my work alongside so many others with the same passion for making, and to an audience who share in this love of art and craft.”

Mattila discovered his passion for forging metal artistically after moving to the Deloraine area with his Tasmanian wife, Ani. He took a course in heavy metal fabrication and quickly became fascinated with the medium’s artistic possibilities.

As the Tasmanian Craft Fair’s Emerging Artist, Mattila will showcase and sell his work at stall 509 at Venue 5, at the Community Complex in Deloraine. It is Pete’s first appearance at the Fair, which is the largest working demonstration of arts and crafts in Australia. This year’s Fair features stallholders across a range of arts and crafts disciplines selling their work and demonstrating on-site how their craft is performed.

A not-for-profit event run by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, the Tasmanian Craft Fair hosts more than 240 arts and craftspeople, involves more than 1000 community volunteers and attracts more than 25,000 people from throughout Tasmania, interstate and internationally. This year the event will feature 16 venues, with a free shuttle bus providing easy access between venues.

All funds raised through the Fair are put back into the community, with a variety of local, national and international development projects, projects to aid the disadvantaged and community improvement projects completed in the past 30 years.

For further details, visit [www.tascraftfair.com.au](http://www.tascraftfair.com.au)

**For further media information please contact:**

**John Larkin**

**0427 494790; [john.larkin1966@gmail.com](mailto:john.larkin1966@gmail.com)**

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