



JAPAN FOUNDATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 9 May - For Immediate Release

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**KIDS!** Get creative these July school holidays and celebrate Tanabata with a **hands-on art party** with renowned Japanese artist **Chaco Kato!**

Children will hear the adored Japanese folktale of Tanabata and bring it to life by creating a beautiful art installation with **Chaco Kato** on **Wednesday 3** and **Thursday 4 July** at **Object Gallery**. There are three sessions available on both days – **9:30am**, **11:00am** and **2:30pm**. Each session runs for approximately 1 hour, and cater for **ages 3-12**. Cost for registration is \$10 per child. Families with younger children are encouraged to attend the morning sessions.

Tanabata is the Japanese star festival, a story of two stars Orihime and Hikoboshi, lovers separated by the Milky Way and are only able to meet once a year on 7 July (Tanabata, literally means the evening of the seventh). Just like in Japan, these workshops will see children and families prepare for the festival by making traditional paper-art decorations - *origami* and *kirigami*. They will also write their heart-felt wishes on pieces of paper called *tanzaku* and hang them on a bamboo wishing tree.

Artist Chaco reminisces, "When I was a child, I remember my little sister and I were always excited preparing for the special day. We made many decorations, sang songs and wrote many wishes hoping that they would come true! On the evening of Tanabata, we would go outside and look up to the sky trying to locate the two stars and imagine their story... we felt like beautiful princesses floating along the Milky Way amongst all the other stars!"

Don't delay – be sure to reserve your spot now as places are limited to 25 per session.

## Tanabata: Wish Upon a Star

Dates: Wednesday 3 & Thursday 4 July 2013  
Venue: Object Gallery  
417 Bourke Street, Surry Hills  
Ages: 3 – 12 years  
Sessions: 9:30am, 11:00am, 2:30pm (approx. 1hr per session)  
Cost: \$10 (includes booking fee)  
Limited spots available (25 max per session)

**BOOK NOW** via [www.jpff.org.au](http://www.jpff.org.au)

Creative Producer: Kathryn Hunyor

Presented by: Presenting Partner:



### ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION:

The Japan Foundation aims to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations through a diverse range of programs and events. The Japan Foundation, Sydney runs a gallery space, library and Japanese language courses for all levels catering from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 23 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.

**WEB:** [www.jpff.org.au](http://www.jpff.org.au) | **FB:** @japanfoundationsydney | **TW:** @jpfpsydney

### ABOUT CHACO KATO:



Chaco was born in Japan and arrived in Australia in 1996. She is a visual artist whose practice involves many genres from creating large scale installations to illustrating for children's books. Her work has been exhibited extensively in various public/commercial spaces nationally and internationally, such as Arts Centre Melbourne, 3331 Arts Chiyoda in Tokyo, and the Esplanade Performance Centre in Singapore.

She completed a Fine Arts degree at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and finished a Master of Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1999. She was the recipient of a French government scholarship, the Paris Cite des Arts, and had a studio at Gertrude Contemporary Art Space from 1998 - 2000. Chaco is a founding member of Slow Art Collective (SAC), an interdisciplinary artist group who focus on creative practices, environmental sustainability, DIY culture, and collaborative practice.

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For more information, previews, images or interview opportunities please contact:

Evon Fung on (02) 8239 0058 / [evon\\_fung@jpf.org.au](mailto:evon_fung@jpf.org.au) or

Amanda Thompson on (02) 8239 0079 / [amanda\\_thompson@jpf.org.au](mailto:amanda_thompson@jpf.org.au)

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