



LIVING
MUSEUM
OF LOGAN

KATO KAKALA IN LOGAN

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– April 2024



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KATO KAKALA IN LOGAN

Kato Kakala is a collective initiative, one of its focuses is on collaborative creative processes. Kato Kakala explore how these processes foster environments of unity based on diversity. They also contribute to discourses related to strengthening social cohesion. This is achieved through various conversations with communities, and national and international stakeholders. The project draws on the collective practice of *ngatu* making and integrates film and photography to tell stories. Local-level storytelling helps maintain a focus on creative process and relationship-building.

Kato Kakala in Logan was a pilot residency project supported by Logan City Council's Community Development Fund. It was hosted by the Living Museum of Logan. Logan-based Ivi artists facilitated workshops to unify members of Logan's diverse community. In these workshops, participants shared stories and explored ideas of unity and diversity. Together they developed original symbols and patterns to express new understandings, contributing designs to create a collaborative *masi/ngatu* (barkcloth). Some of these artworks are still with national and international communities. The images and video developed during the residency are now on display at the Living Museum of Logan. This exhibition includes the first Kato Kakala *ngatu*. It was created with members of Waibene/Thursday Island, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Mooroolbool, Manoora and Northern Beach Communities.

Cover image: *Ngatu* (detail) made with members of Waibene/ Thursday Island, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Mooroolbool, Manoora and Northern Beach communities. Digital photograph, image by Louis Lim.

Image left: Kato Kakala residency project participants, Living Museum of Logan, 2022–2023, copyright: the artist.



Project participants reflected on how, when we look at everyone with the eye of oneness, we can want them to be the best they can be, instead of feeling competitive or, thinking that we are either better or worse than them:

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Somebody thinking this way would regard people as “flowers with their own fragrance...their own skills and talents. We would feel a lot more encouraged and not have so much of an ego like: ‘I am the best at this, I don’t want anyone to be better than me’. We can all be good at something and encourage other people to be just as good or better than you.”

When we start to see ourselves as one, the idea of hurting someone, trying to make them know that you’re better, or that they should be afraid of you, makes no sense. “Most of the people you look at, they don’t know that you like them or that you could like them. And so, I started to change my expression and to smile or something like that. And you see a little bit of surprise in their face. And it [the tension] kind of melts.”



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“On the idea of what constitutes each person’s unique talents, which they can contribute to the collective, people shared that humanity would be much more advanced if we knew what our talents were and learned to contribute them to unifying processes. We would see that the reason for our differences is so that we can harmonise them with others in the process of working together to build a better world. In order to be able to do this we need to widen our definition of “talent” to include things that we don’t typically consider. In the world today our definition of talents or capabilities are limited, and in any given field of work we only consider a handful of things that are needed. So, everyone is striving to show the same few qualities or attributes and ignoring all of the other capabilities that human beings have. There are talents like: being welcoming, or good at consulting or listening etc. that we can place a much higher value on.”



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“One of the most important ways that people can contribute is to not only be part of united communities or groups, but to be able to bring people together where this is lacking. It is easy to not recognise our part and influence in an environment where there is a need for greater unity of purpose and vision. Wherever we are there should always be an interplay of things we can learn and things we can give.”



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“A lot of disunity in the world is because we are different, and people think they are better than the other. The quote says the difference should be the cause of unity instead. We need variety and it should be the cause of unity instead of disunity.”

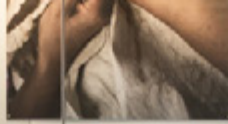
Everyone agreed that the differences between people is needed for us to progress as a collective, and we start wondering why it is we tend to stick with people similar to us.



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“We all have a need to feel like we are being understood, so we just feel like it is easier with people that we have certain commonalities with. Imagine if we actually tried to understand people who are different if we were listening and interested to know. When I meet someone that’s very different, I won’t share as much about myself because I feel like they won’t understand. So, it’s interesting to think, ‘why do we want to be with people who are similar.’”

Statement: Kato Kakala residency project participants, Living Museum of Logan, 2022–2023
Image: workshop participants 2022-2023, copyright: the artist.



Kato Kakala is a collective initiative. One of its focuses is learning how to build environments of unity based on diversity. As well as to contribute to the discourses related to strengthening social cohesion. These concepts are achieved through various conversations with national and international stakeholders. These conversations focus on how using film can build capacity for storytelling. Storytelling on a local level helps maintain a focus on the processes and relationship-building.

Kato Kakala project in Logan was the pilot residency program of the Living Museum of Logan. In partnership with the Living Museum of Logan, facilitated workshops. The objective of these workshops was to bring members of Logan's diverse community into one space. Participants shared stories and painted their stories on the ngatu (barkcloth).

The ngatu, photographs and video created during Kato Kakala residency pilot program at the Living Museum of Logan are now on exhibition.



KATO KAKALA in Logan

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“Imagine a world where everybody was given the opportunity to develop their potential. If unity existed and everybody was seen as valuable and allowed to develop their gifts, what kind of world would it be where everyone is making a contribution? This idea of unity is that if someone is taken out of the puzzle the whole thing falls apart, the whole thing is compromised if we don’t have everybody’s contributions”.

Statement: Kato Kakala residency project participants, Living Museum of Logan, 2022–2023
Image: Installation shot. Photographed by Louis Lim in 2023



Living Museum of Logan

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Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and when events and performances are held at the Kingston Butter Factory. Entry is free.

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