

Dr Maria Wronska-Friend is an anthropologist and museum curator, since 1994 associated with James Cook University in Australia where she holds the position of Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the School of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology.

Her main areas of interest are the cross-cultural transfer of textile technology between Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe as well as the process of material culture transformation in Papua New Guinea. Her PhD from the Institute of Arts at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland, investigated the influence of Javanese batik on European Art Nouveau and Art Deco and was the outcome of extensive research conducted on Java as well as examination of European museum holdings. In addition, she continues research on the globalisation of the ethnic dress of the Hmong diaspora (refugees from Laos) and the trans-national exchange of the festive and ritual garments of the Hmong people in the Cairns region.

She has conducted extensive field research in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia (Hmong refugees from Laos and Polish migrants). As a museum curator, she has organised several exhibitions in Australia and Poland promoting Indonesian textiles and other aspects of Southeast Asian culture.

She is the author of several refereed publications on textiles and dress of Southeast Asia, including a comparative study of Polish and Javanese textiles *Art Drawn with wax: Batik in Indonesia and Poland*, Warsaw 2008.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Indonesian textiles

'Batik dress of Java', in *The Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, ed. J.B. Eicher, vol. 4: *South and South East Asia* (Oxford: Berg Publishers 2010), 441-447.

'From sarong to kaba: Javanese batik and African garments' in *Costume and the textile trade. Textiles et costumes, échanges commerciaux*, eds. Maria-Anne Privat-Savigny, Katia Johansen, Bernhard Berthod (Lyon: Musée des Tissus et des Arts Décoratifs 2010), 110-117.

Sztuka Woskiem pisana. Batik w Indonezji i w Polsce [Art drawn with wax: Batik in Indonesia and Poland] (Warszawa: Gondwana 2008).

‘Javanese Batik. The art of wax design. Javanische Batik. Die Kunst der Musterung mit Wachs’, in *Batik. 75 selected masterpieces. Rudolf G. Smend collection*, I. Fleischmann-Heck et al. (Köln: Galerie Smend 2006), 30–57.

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