



**5th WORLD SUMMIT
ON ARTS & CULTURE
MELBOURNE 2011**

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Pilar Kasat (Australia)

Pilar Kasat's passion and awareness of the transformative power of community arts began while growing up in Chile under the oppressive regime of General Pinochet. In 1987 Pilar emigrated to Australia as a political refugee and was drawn to working with under represented communities using arts and culture to change entrenched disadvantage.

Pilar's professional roles include teacher, community artist, and senior arts manager. As Managing Director of Community Arts Network Western Australia for seven years, Pilar has led the organisation to its current position as peak body for community arts and cultural development in WA.

Over the past six years, CAN WA has established two regional hubs that facilitate self – determined Aboriginal arts and culture programs with communities in the Wheatbelt region. In 2010 Pilar was elected onto the Board of the Chamber of Arts and Culture WA, the state's representative arts body. She is currently completing a Masters in Sustainability, investigating the effectiveness of community arts practice in empowering marginalised communities.

Pilar is an experienced presenter and avid traveler who advocates the value of community arts as a transformative practice at state and national conferences, forums and masterclasses.