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## Perth artist shortlisted in Silver Jubilee Telstra Art Award

Lesmurdie's Lindsay Harris is one of over 100 entrants to be short listed in this year's prestigious 25<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*.

Lindsay's piece *Tracks to Kockerbin Rock*, consists of two panels, each measuring one metre square and feature pigment, resin and acrylics on hemp and depict the town of Kwolyin in the land of his Nyoongar people.

Lindsay's works generally represent the land of his Nyoongar people, symbolising the places where he once lived. He paints in traditional methods using sticks to create the images of rocks, tracks and salt lakes.

The tracks to Kockerbin Rock lead to the cave where Old Kokitj (an old spirit man) lives. Kockerbin Rock was a sacred place for Nyoongar couples and, a long time ago, those who could not have children would journey to Kockerbin to ask Old Kokitj for a koolun, or child. He would reply, "ngientj nooning djinanging koolung" ("next time I see you, you will have a child").

Sixty one year old Lindsay discovered painting later in life and is currently completing his Masters in Art at Curtin University of Technology. Exhibitions of Lindsay's works have been shown at Art Space Perth, the Contemporary Art Gallery of Fremantle and the Perth Galleries in Subiaco and his pieces are found in several public collections, including the King Edward Memorial Hospital of Children.

Museum and Art Gallery (MAGNT) Acting Director, Apolline Kohen said the great diversity of Indigenous expression is reflected in the artworks submitted this year which range from 2D works on paper, bark and canvas to 3D works made from fibre, ironwood and fibreglass.

"The quality of the art works we have received for this year's Silver Jubilee is outstanding, and there is no doubt the judges will have a difficult time selecting the winners," Ms Kohen said.

Lawrie Mortimer, General Manager of the Telstra's Indigenous Directorate, said the Telstra Art Award provides incredible exposure for Indigenous artists from all around Australia.

"Telstra's support of this Award helps ensure the continued development of Indigenous art in Australia by identifying and recognising the country's most talented artists, no matter where they live," Mr Mortimer said.

The overall \$40,000 Telstra Award and further four media categories will again be non-acquisitive in 2008, which means the winning artists can retain or sell their works.

"We're expecting many of the works to be in great demand following the announcement of this year's winners," Ms Kohen said.

"Last year, over two thirds of finalists sold their works for a combined total of more than \$850,000."

Winners in the Telstra Art Award will be announced on Friday 15 August at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and works will be on display until Sunday 26 October 2008.

The Telstra Art Award is open to all adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and aims to showcase the very best Australian Indigenous art from around the country.

### **For further information contact:**

Award Coordinator, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

**MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
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**Media note:** To speak to Telstra Art Award finalists call Melanie Neilson 0400 599 463

The 25<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



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