

Danie Mellor shortlisted in 2010 Telstra Art Award

21 July 2010 - Danie Mellor, originally from Mackay, QLD, is one of only 96 artists announced as a finalist in this year's 27th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* for his mixed media works on paper titled *A Transcendent Vision (of life, death and resurrection)*.

Holding the mantle as the 2009 Telstra Art Award Major Prize winner, Danie's work this year, references tracing boards used in ceremony and initiation to explain ancient symbols and concealed narratives of mythology, fable and life, death and resurrection.

"This work is a comment on how the colonisation of this country brought an interruption to Aboriginal peoples' relationship with land and culture. It also symbolises a repository of sacred iconography, speaking of hidden, secret knowledge," explained Mellor.

A lecturer at Sydney University's College of the Arts, Mellor also holds a PhD from the Australian National University. He is a nationally acclaimed contemporary artist with works in the permanent collections of numerous national and state galleries including the National Gallery of Australia.

This is Mellor's ninth selection as a finalist in the Telstra Art Award.

Telstra Art Award Curator, Kate Podger said there had been a diverse range of artworks submitted, from traditional works on paper, paintings, barks and three dimensional artworks to, for the first time, entries in the Telstra New Media Award.

"I congratulate all of the artists from across Australia who entered this year - the Telstra Art Award continues to evolve and grow to offer new opportunities for Indigenous artists to showcase their extraordinary talents," Ms Podger said.

Telstra Chief Marketing Officer, Kate McKenzie, said the Telstra Art Award provides an important national showcase for the work of Indigenous artists from all around the country.

"We're proud that Telstra's support of the Telstra Art Award for the last 19 years has helped Indigenous artists like Danie Mellor gain recognition, and enabled more Australians to see their outstanding work," Ms McKenzie said.

Now in its 27th year, the Telstra Art Award is the first and longest running art award dedicated to the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and is an opportunity for Indigenous Australians to express and celebrate their culture, beliefs and society.

The Telstra Art Award comprises the \$40,000 Telstra Award and \$4,000 to other categories including; the Telstra General Painting Award, the Telstra Bark Painting Award, the Telstra Work on Paper Award and the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (also sponsored by Telstra) in addition to the Telstra New Media Award (\$3,000).

The 27th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* exhibition opens on Friday, 13 August 2010. For more information about the Telstra Art Award or to view the online gallery of works from previous Telstra Art Award exhibitions go to www.magnnt.gov.au/natsiaa. To follow the Telstra Art Award on Twitter go to www.twitter.com/natsiaa

Media note: To speak with Telstra Art Award finalists, please call Melanie Neilson on 0400 599 463

The 27th *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

