



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER ARTS AND MUSEUMS

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## **FIRST PIC: CROCODILE FLIGHT TO DARWIN**

One of the best known icons of Territory art and history flew into Darwin for the first time this week in preparation for the Museum and Art Gallery's *Sound of the sky* exhibition, Arts and Museum Minister Marion Scrymgour said today.

"Crocodiles have always been headlines in the Territory, but this is the first and only time this famous painting has been to the Top End," said Ms Scrymgour.

"The 1857 oil painting, by explorer and artist Thomas Baines—*Baines and Humphrey killing an alligator: on the Horseshoe Flats*—is one of several masterpieces to make the 14000 kilometre journey from London to Darwin this week.

"It is an image well known to all of us who call the Top End home, and is one of the most important paintings of the Museum's upcoming *Sound of the Sky* exhibition—the most significant historical display of non-Indigenous art in its history.

"These art works have been gathered together for the first time to tell the story of the Northern Territory through the eyes of western artists during the past 200 years," *Sound of the sky* curator Daena Murray said.

Ms Murray said among the 150 artworks to feature in *The Sound of the Sky* are modernist pieces by Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd.

She said the consignment of international masterpieces is on loan from the British Ministry of Defence, Royal Geographical Society and the Natural History Museum, all based in London.

The exhibition will be open to the public from April 8 to July 16.

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