



MEDIA RELEASE

Churchill Fellowship Recipient Set For Overseas Journey

A journey to some of the world's most famous museums awaits Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Senior Curator of Aboriginal Art and Material Culture Franchesca Cubillo.

Ms Cubillo flies to New Zealand next week before continuing her travels to Canada, the United States and United Kingdom, where she will learn more about museum policies and practices in those countries relating to the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and other Indigenous materials.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to meet and spend time with those people already involved or potentially involved in the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and materials," Ms Cubillo said.

"I am particularly interested in talking to the Maori curators at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, New Zealand, because they have a very good program with their own Indigenous people but I am also excited by the prospect of going to the US and also learning about repatriation practices at the National Museum of the American Indian.

"But equally interesting will be my journey to the United Kingdom where institutions there are currently considering the repatriation of Australian Indigenous human remains.

"I don't have a particular agenda apart from learning how and why certain practices do or do not happen."

Ms Cubillo's journey was made possible after she was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in July.

She will compile and present her report demonstrating how her findings will benefit Australia.

The Larrakia woman was in the United States for the opening of the *Dreaming Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters* when Award recipients were initially notified of their success two months ago.

Ms Cubillo has since been heavily involved in this year's 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award that is being exhibited at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory until 22 October.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Franchesca Cubillo on 8999 8228. Ms Cubillo's last day at MAGNT before her departure from Darwin as part of her Fellowship is 21 September 2006.

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