



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

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Come Twine With Us

A unique exhibition showcasing Australia's first survey of contemporary and historical Aboriginal fibre art from western Arnhem Land will open at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT (MAGNT).

Museum and Arts Minister – and Member for Arafura – Marion Scrymgour said *Twined Together: Kunmadj Njalehnhaleken* highlights the work of women from the Gunbalanya community who work with fibre to produce a range of work from string bags to coiled mats.

She said the Museum Victoria travelling exhibition would open tomorrow with the public invited to “*Come Twine With Us*” on Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm each day at MAGNT.

“To celebrate the opening of this great exhibition the public will be able to meet with the accomplished fibre artists of Injalak Arts and Crafts Association this weekend,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Colour and material preparation demonstrations will be held from 10am to midday during the weekend at the MAGNT Amphitheatre where the public will see how pandanus is stripped, colour is prepared and fibre is dyed.

“The women artists of western Arnhem Land have a long tradition of working with local plant fibres, including pandanus, palms and barks, to make the classic forms the public will see in the exhibition.

“The twining and coiling demonstrations will also be held on both days, at the Ken Waters Gallery from 10.30am to 4pm.

“The public will be able to sit and twine with the artists as they construct the baskets, mats and string bags that have made them proficient in this fibre art form.

“So I urge people to come along, hear their stories and be inspired by the surrounding exhibition, with its rich colours, intricate techniques and beautiful forms. “

Ms Scrymgour said there will also be a curatorial floor talk on Saturday from 11.30am by co-curators Dr Louise Hamby, Visiting Fellow ANU and Jill Nganjmirra, fibre artist from Mamadawerre in Arnhem Land.

Ms Scrymgour said the exhibition, supported by Visions Australia, includes baskets and bags collected about 100 years ago with these works demonstrating the cultural importance of twined baskets and string bags for both men and women.

Twined Together: Kumadj Njalehnjaleken officially opens tonight at 6pm and is open to the public from 10 November 2006 to 21 January 2007 at MAGNT, which is the fifth of nine stops as part of the Museum Victoria travelling exhibition that is set to conclude in May 2008.

MEDIA NOTE: Media invited to attend opening this evening at 6pm

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