



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Territory Artists Striving for Colour

A group of Territory artists from western Arnhem Land is set to head to Palmerston today in search of a plant rich in colour.

The Aboriginal fibre artists are in Darwin for the *Twined Together: Kunmadj Njalehnjaleken* exhibition, which opens to the public today at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

MAGNT director Anna Malgorzewicz said the opening weekend would feature twining demonstrations and floor talks as a way of engaging with locals and tourists who view the exhibition.

Ms Malgorzewicz said collecting dye plants such as *Haemodorum coccineum*, also known as blood root was an important part of the *Come Twine With Us* demonstrations.

"The *Hamodorum coccineum* is a plant found in northern Australia that creates magnificent purples and pinks," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"It is an integral part of the process that culminates in the creation of wonderful fibre art such as baskets, mats and string bags for which they are well known.

"The artists are going through the same process as they normally would in Gunbalanya and other outstations in western Arnhem Land, where they are from."

Ms Malgorzewicz said the exhibition, supported by Visions of 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.

"I congratulate Injalak Arts and Crafts Association based at Oenpelli that secured the funding to make this exhibition possible in collaboration with Museum Victoria," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"Injalak, together with Museum Victoria, has ensured these artists get deserved recognition for the tremendous artworks by supporting *Twined Together's* national tour."

*Twined Together: Kumadj Njalehnjaleken* officially opened last night 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.

*Twined Together: Kunmadj Njalehnjaleken* is a Museum Victoria travelling exhibition. The exhibition was developed in partnership with Injalak Arts and Crafts Association.

This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia.

MAGNT is open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays and from 10am to 5pm on weekends and public holidays except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Qarenne De Vere (8999 8219) or Wendy Wood (8999 8163) at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT**

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