



MEDIA RELEASE

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2007 Telstra Award Entry Closing Date Fast Approaching

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) Director Anna Malgorzewicz is encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to submit entries to this year's Telstra Award before Friday 30 March 2007.

"We are expecting a late flurry of entries to arrive this week," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"And, while we have received some very strong entries, we are keen to see more before Friday.

"Many art centre co-ordinators have suggested entries will again be strong in number and quality.

"Everyone involved in the award always look forward to the arrival of entries and we want to ensure that no one misses the closing date of 30 March."

Ms Malgorzewicz said the Telstra Award provides significant exposure for Indigenous artists across Australia, who often come from remote and isolated communities.

She said one of the challenges with living in remote and isolated communities, particularly those in northern Australia, is the wet season's strength and behaviour.

"In circumstances where the wet season has resulted in heavy rain or even flooding, it can make it difficult for artists to access materials," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"So for example, it will be interesting to see what proportion of entries is made up of bark works this year following a wet season that has been strong in bursts."

Ms Malgorzewicz said 297 entries were received last year, before being shortlisted to a final field of 82 entries.

She said this year's pre-selection panel is expected to meet in late April, before shortlisting entrants to a final field.

Ms Malgorzewicz said this year's 24th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* would again be non-acquisitive, with the \$40,000 Telstra Award and four media category prizes of \$4000 again available.

Ngoia Napaltjarri Pollard, from Mt Liebig 325km west of Alice Springs, won last year's \$40,000 Telstra Award and was one of 25 finalists who sold their work.

The 24th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is open to all adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and aims to showcase the very best Australian Indigenous art from around the country.

The Award was founded by MAGNT in 1984 and remains the nation's longest running Award dedicated to Indigenous artists. Since 1992 Telstra has been the Award's major sponsor, and in 2005 renewed its sponsorship for a further five years.

The 24th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* exhibition opens and Award presentations will be made on Friday 10 August 2007. The exhibition will be on display until 18 November 2007.

For further information and to request preselection entry forms contact:

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Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Anna Malgorzewicz on 8999 8220

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