



MEDIA RELEASE

19 APRIL 2007

307 entries received for 2007 Telstra Award

Organisers of this year's 24th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* are ecstatic about the high quantity and quality of entries received for this year's Award.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory director Anna Malgorzewicz said 307 entries had been received with pre-selection set to commence next week.

"The number of entries received this year is 10 more than last year," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"When you consider the high level flooding and heavy rain that affected Top End communities such as Oenpelli and Maningrida earlier this year, the number of entries received is even more remarkable.

"What is also pleasing is the number of entries we received not only from the Northern Territory, but also interstate, with almost 90 from the NT/SA/WA Desert and Kimberley/Pilbara regions, 32 from Queensland, 13 from Victoria and 11 from New South Wales.

"We are extremely excited about how this year's Award is progressing."

Ms Malgorzewicz said that among the hundreds of entries received was one from the Tjanpi Desert Weavers who won the \$40,000 Award in 2005 for their memorable *Tjanpi Grass Toyota*.

"The challenging task of narrowing down the number of entrants to a final field of contenders is now in the hands of the pre-selection panel, comprising well known Australian artists Vernon Ah Kee and Rosie Barkus from Queensland and artist, curator and writer Cath Bowdler, who is currently based in Canberra.

"The pre-selection panel is set to arrive in Darwin this weekend with a final field expected to be decided on 26 April," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"We are extremely grateful to the panel members for dedicating their time and effort to this crucial process."

This year's \$40,000 Telstra Award and four media categories prizes of \$4000 will again be non-acquisitive, meaning MAGNT will not automatically acquire entries, as it did from its inception in 1984 until 2005.

Once pre-selected artists are notified of their pre-selection, they will be required to send their works to MAGNT by 8 June.

This year's Award ceremony and presentation night at MAGNT is Friday, 10 August and works will be on display until Sunday, 18 November 2007.

Media Note – For more information contact Anna Malgorzewicz on (08) 8999 8220



The 24th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.