



MEDIA RELEASE

Jasmine Jan Exhibition

Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) Senior Interpretive Officer Jasmine Jan opens her third solo exhibition *Wild Water Coloured Dust* at the Territory Craft Gallery in Darwin tonight.

The exhibition, described as an East-West fusion combines Eastern and Western watercolour techniques to produce vibrant artworks featuring wildlife Ms Jan encounters in her day job at the Territory Wildlife Park.

Born in Darwin, Ms Jan said she is a self-taught artist who had an interest in wildlife and art from a very young age, and has continued to combine her interests in Science and Art in her work and artistic career.

"Many people ask me where I find the time to work full-time and work as an artist, but the two go hand in hand," Ms Jan said.

"While I was studying for a Science degree I began working as a Trainee Technical Officer in the Natural Sciences division at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

"I then worked as a zookeeper for the Territory Wildlife Park for ten years in the Monsoon Forest and Wetlands Area, and this latest exhibition features works inspired by that time."

Ms Jan's artwork features plants and animals of northern Australia, a subject that she has developed an intimate understanding of through her work at the MAGNT and TWP.

Utilising a scroll-like layout the exhibition features works of kingfishers, spotted stingrays, striped scats and magpie geese just to name a few.

"The subject matter remains faithful to the region where I live, so the birds, plants and fish I have painted are all very familiar to me and would probably be recognisable to most locals," Ms Jan said.

Being an Australian born Chinese, her heritage also provides inspiration, and Ms Jan said she has been particularly inspired by Chinese born artist Lian Quan Zhen who believes a beautiful painting depicts the harmony between nature and imagination.

"I don't adhere to all the rules of Chinese brush painting, I do Australian subjects, Chinese style," Ms Jan said.

Later this year Ms Jan will be participating in an Artists Camp at Mount Borradaile in Western Arnhem Land, and is looking forward to producing works from the landscapes of ancient rock formations and wildlife of the region.

The *Wild Water Coloured Dust* exhibition will be on display at the Territory Craft Gallery from 20 July to 2 August 2007. Tonight's opening starts at 6pm.

Ends

Media Note – go to www.jasminejan.com.au for more information or contact Jasmine Jan on 0428 279 619

Issued: 8.30am Friday, 20 July 2007.