



## Special Presentation to Torres Strait Islander Artist

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) director Anna Malgorzewicz today joined with Telstra CEO Sol Trujillo in presenting Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti with his Telstra Art Award certificate at MAGNT in Darwin.

"Alick Tipoti is one of Australia's leading visual artists who recently won the \$4000 Telstra Work on Paper category at this year's 24<sup>th</sup> Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"Unfortunately for Alick, he was unable to attend the 10 August 2007 Telstra Art Award opening night and award ceremony in Darwin due to family commitments.

"However, we managed to secure Alick's availability to coincide with Mr Trujillo's visit to Darwin this week so that Mr Trujillo and I could present Alick with his much-deserved prize earlier today.

"I thank Telstra for its continued support and sponsorship of Australia's premier Indigenous Art Award and Mr Trujillo for making himself available for this special event."

Mr Tipoti is a two-time winner of the \$4000 Telstra Works on Paper category and was also unavailable to attend the award ceremony in 2003 when he last won the prize.

He said his 2007 Telstra Art Award entry *Gubau Aimai Mabaigal* means Wind Makers in the Maluigal Zenadh Kes language and tells the story of the Zugubal who create and control the four winds that clear the airways of the Torres Strait Islands.

"This print shows the yearly seasonal calendar of my people, the Maluigal," Mr Tipoti said. "It is great to have been able to fly to Darwin and be presented my Award by Ms Malgorzewicz and Mr Trujillo at MAGNT."

Ms Malgorzewicz said Mr Tipoti's Telstra Art Award-winning entry had proven popular among the thousands of people who had so far viewed the exhibition since it opened to the public on 10 August.

She urged visitors to the exhibition to nominate their favourite work as part of this year's People's Choice Award from this year's 104 Telstra Art Award finalists, which includes Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona's *Ubirikubiri*, which won the overall \$40,000 Telstra Award.

MAGNT is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm and on weekends from 10am to 5pm until the Telstra Art Award exhibition ends on Sunday, 18 November. Admission is free.

*For further information contact:*

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The 24<sup>th</sup> 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.