

MEDIA RELEASE

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Territory Artist Wins People's Choice Award

Northern Territory artist Helen McCarthy Tyalmuty has won this year's *24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* people's choice award.

Ms McCarthy Tyalmuty received 41 of the 564 entries posted for her work *Grandpa Harry's Canoe*, edging out Queensland artist Laurie Nilsen who received 34 votes for *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) director Anna Malgorzewicz today presented Ms McCarthy Tyalmuty with a certificate recognising her achievement.

"Helen's painting and the story that it tells has obviously resonated well with those visitors to MAGNT who have voted for their favourite entry," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"I congratulate Helen on her achievement and thank the hundreds of people who have cast their vote for who they believe should win the Telstra Art Award people's choice award."

Ms McCarthy Tyalmuty was born at Tennant Creek in 1972 and spent most of her childhood at Nauiyu Nambiyu Community, about 230km south of Darwin.

Her entry in this year's Telstra Art Award is a synthetic polymer painting on Belgian canvas and tells the story of her Grandpa Tyemeny Limen who made canoes out of kapok trees.

On one occasion, Tyemeny Limen took his children for a ride in a canoe to nearby Delissaville where the children would go to school and no longer travel around.

This year's coveted **\$40,000 TELSTRA ART AWARD** went to Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona for his work *Ubirikubiri*, a cast bronze structure of a 3.5m crocodile that depicts the story of a legend that took place on the Mai Kusa (River) on the western coast of Papua New Guinea.

In addition to the Telstra Art Award, prizes were awarded in four other categories:

The \$4,000 Telstra General Painting Award, was awarded to Northern Territory-based artist Angelina George for her work *Near Ruined City*.

The \$4,000 Telstra Bark Painting Award was awarded to Margaret Rarru Garrawurra from Arnhem Land for her work *Ngarra Body Paint Design*.

The \$4,000 Telstra Works on Paper, was awarded to Alick Tipoti from the Torres Strait Islands for his work *Gubau Aimai Mabaigal*.

The \$4,000 Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award, sponsored by Telstra was awarded to Laurie Nilsen from Queensland for his work *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*.

The public still has until 18 November to view the Telstra Art Award exhibition at MAGNT and entry is free.

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

Ends

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

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