

17 March 2008

75/2008

Artists urged to enter 25th Telstra Art Award as closing date looms

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and Telstra are encouraging artists to enter the highly coveted 25th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* before the entry period closes on Friday 28 March 2008.

MAGNT Director, Anna Malgorzewicz, said some strong entries have already been received in this year's Telstra Art Award, and is looking forward to seeing a flurry of last minute quality entries.

"The Telstra Art Award is the first and longest running Indigenous art award in the country and we don't want anyone to miss out on entering, especially this year, during the Silver Jubilee.

"The Award gives Indigenous artists, from all around Australia, a fantastic opportunity to gain significant exposure for their artworks," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

General Manager of the Telstra National Indigenous Directorate, Lawrie Mortimer said that Telstra has a long history of supporting Indigenous artists from across Australia.

"Telstra has sponsored the Award since 1992, and over this period, many of the artists featured in the Award have gone on to exhibit their works nationally and internationally as well as having their works acquired by cultural institutions," Mr Mortimer said.

"Celebrating the Award's 25th Silver Jubilee this year is a fantastic milestone and something Telstra is extremely proud to be a part of."

The Telstra Art Award of \$40,000 and the other four media categories will again be non-acquisitive in 2008, meaning that the winning artists can retain their works and gain further financial benefit from the sale of the work.

Last year, the five winning artworks were valued at a total of \$239,550. Dennis Nona, from Badu Island in the Torres Strait, won the 2007 Telstra Art award with his artwork, Ubirikubiri.

Entries for the 25th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* close on Friday 28 March 2008. The *Telstra 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.

For further information contact:

Award Coordinator, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801

Tel: 08 8999 8203 Fax: 08 8999 8148 Email: natsiaa@nt.gov.au

Media note: Previous Telstra Art Award finalists / winners are available for interview. For details call Melanie Neilson on 0400 599 463.

The 25th *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.



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy
Northern Territory

