

Media Release:

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## Stolen Indigenous Artworks Recovered

A total of seven Indigenous artworks with an estimated value of at least \$500,000 have been recovered from an early morning break-in at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz said Northern Territory Police recovered the artworks stashed in bushes near the Darwin Bowls and Social Club, several hundred metres from MAGNT.

“The Northern Territory Police have done a wonderful job in locating the stolen paintings so quickly,” Ms Malgorzewicz said.

“The Museum’s security alarms were activated at 3.39am, Tuesday 1 April, and the security control room contacted Northern Territory Police who responded within 15 minutes of the alarm.

“From the security vision it appears that entry to the museum was gained by smashing a window with a rock, with the entire incident only taking around 15 minutes,” Ms Malgorzewicz said.

“The works taken were all from the Desert area of Central Australia, with six being Papunya boards and the seventh piece a *Walter Ebatarinja* watercolour.

“All the works are from important ceremonial leaders (all now deceased) from the early 1970’s period, which indicates that the paintings may have been specifically targeted.

Below is a full listing of the recovered pieces:

Synthetic polymer paint pieces (commonly known as Papunya boards):

***Untitled***, Mick Namarari Tjapaltjarri  
***Medicine Story***, Charlie Tjaruru Tjungurrayi  
***Medicine Story***, Uta Uta Tjangala  
***Meeting of Men of Snake Totem***, Kaapa Mbitjana Tjampitjinpa  
***Old Man’s Death***, Old Tutuma Tjapangati (Karlytalykunu)  
***Water Dreaming Ceremony***, Yala Yala Gibbs Tjungurrayi

Watercolour on paper:

***Ceremonial man with tjurunga***, Walter Ebatarinja

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Anna Malgorzewicz on 0401 110 296.**

**Images and details of paintings will be issued soon.**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS**

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