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Over 100 artworks selected in the 25th Telstra Art Award

Over 100 artworks have been selected from more than 300 entries in this year's *25th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) director, Anna Malgorzewicz said the Preselection Panel had the very challenging task of narrowing down the number of entrants to the final field.

"We were very happy with the quantity and quality of entries received in this year's Silver Jubilee Award. We have received strong entries from the Northern Territory, Western Australia and the Desert regions, as well as some great entries from interstate," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

General Manager of the Telstra National Indigenous Directorate, Lawrie Mortimer said he was excited about the response from Indigenous artists from so many parts of the country.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists continue to create quality artworks, and are looking to be recognised for their artistry and originality. Telstra is very proud to be a major supporter of this Award," Mr Mortimer said.

Ms Malgorzewicz thanked the Preselection Panel for dedicating their time and effort to the preselection process.

"The panel comprised well known Australian arts industry figures: Leilani Bin-Juda, Executive Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tina Baum, Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia, and Steve Eland, Director of 24HR Art," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

The overall \$40 000 Telstra Award and further four media categories will again be non-acquisitive in 2008, which means the winning artists can retain or sell their works.

Once artists are notified of their selection, they will be required to send their works to MAGNT by Friday 6 June 2008.

Winners in the Telstra Art Award will be announced on Friday 15 August at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and works will be on display until Sunday 26 October 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:

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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.



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