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## Gatapangawuy Dhawu - Buffalo Story

For the first time ever a 3D installation consisting of a traditional bark painting with an accompanying film has been entered in this year's 25<sup>th</sup> Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Yolgnu artist Nyapanyapa Yunupingu's entry in this year's award consists of a bark painting, *Incident at Mutpi* (1975), and a narrative of the event *Gatapangawuy Dhawu – Buffalo Story*.

The bark painting and subtitled film are based on an incident from the 1970's when Nyapanyapa was badly gored by a buffalo at Mutpi. "He charged at me, threw me up in the air like a football," Nyapanyapa tells the camera as she points out which horn the buffalo gored her with.

Will Stubbs, Coordinator of the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre says Nyapanyapa is a remarkable artist.

"Not only is this the first digital and bark combination, but it's also the first Yolgnu bark painting that narrates an individual's experiences rather than orthodox ancestral law," Mr Stubbs said.

"Despite being well known for her boldly coloured screen prints, which have been in many exhibitions around the world, Nyapanyapa continues to explore other mediums, and only began painting on bark last year."

Nyapanyapa will hold her first solo exhibition at Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney in September 2008.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) Acting Director, Apolline Kohen said the great diversity of Indigenous expression is reflected in the artworks submitted this year which range from 2D works on paper, bark and canvas to 3D works made from fibre, ironwood and fibreglass.

"The quality of the art works we have received for this year's Silver Jubilee is outstanding, and there is no doubt the judges will have a difficult time selecting the winners," Ms Kohen said.

Lawrie Mortimer, General Manager of the Telstra's Indigenous Directorate, said the Telstra Art Award provides incredible exposure for Indigenous artists from all around Australia.

"Telstra's support of this Award helps ensure the continued development of Indigenous art in Australia by identifying and recognising the country's most talented artists, no matter where they live," Mr Mortimer 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.

"We're expecting many of the works to be in great demand following the announcement of this year's winners," Ms Kohen said.

"Last year, over two thirds of finalists sold their works for a combined total of more than \$850,000."

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.

**Media note: For more information contact Will Stubbs, Coordinator, Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre on 8987 1701**

**Image Credit:**

**Nyapanyapa Yunupingu, courtesy of Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre**

The 25<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.



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