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2007 Prize Winner Angelina George enters 25th Telstra Art Awards

Winner of the 2007 Telstra Art Award General Painting category, Angelina George, has entered another beautiful landscape piece in this year's *25th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*.

Ms George, a contemporary artist originally from Nutwood Downs Station, grew up in Arnhem Land, and it is this land that provides inspiration for her bright bold paintings.

Her entry in this year's award is titled *Far Away Places*, and focuses on an area that lies to the east of 'The Ruined City', in the south east corner of Arnhem Land, and comes on the back of last year's winning entry *Near Ruined City*.

"I used to walk through the valleys, creeks and billabongs, across the rivers; we had to find our own tucker and we knew where to go hunting," Ms George says of the area featured in her painting.

"Bushflowers, animals, trees, beautiful rocks, it was wonderful, I was happy then. When I look at places or imagine them, I remember I was walking there, or collecting sugarbag, it makes me sad – a tear comes to my eye and it reminds me of when I used to walk around with my brothers and sisters, or my mother."

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.

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Image Credit:

Angelina George, *Near Ruined City*, synthetic polymer paint on canvas, Winner, Telstra General Painting Award, 24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award 2007.

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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