

13 August 2008

## **Silver Jubilee Telstra Art Award Opens in Darwin**

The Silver Jubilee 25<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* will open at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in Darwin this Friday 15 August.

MAGNT Senior Curator of Aboriginal Art and Material Culture, Franchesca Cubillo said the award ceremony, which is open to the public, will commence at 6pm.

“The opening night of the Telstra Art Award is a major event in Darwin and attracts visitors and artists from all over the country,” Ms Cubillo said.

“The public will have the opportunity to view this year’s final selection of artworks, including the four category winners and overall Telstra Award winner.”

The evening of celebrations commences with a Larrakia welcome at 6pm, followed by entertainment including the Kenbi Dance Group, Ngarukuruwala - a collaboration featuring the Wangatunga Strong Women’s Group singing traditional Tiwi songs fused with contemporary jazz, blues and swing musicians, and the renowned Narbarlek Band, who have toured extensively throughout Australia and internationally.

After the ceremony and entertainment guests are invited to view the exhibition which includes a wide range of themes, styles and media including painting on bark, canvas and paper, prints, sculpture, fibre art, ceramics, photography, digital media and video.

Guests are encouraged to bring along their own food, drink and picnic blankets and enjoy the evening on the lawns of the MAGNT grounds.

Ms Cubillo said to commemorate 25 years of the Telstra Art Award, a new interactive website will also be launched offering users from around the world the opportunity to view moving images of this year’s artworks through a virtual tour of the gallery.

“In addition to providing a virtual gallery, audio on each artwork from the artist’s statements is also available to download – taking the award to national and international audiences.”

To view the online gallery, which will be available from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, go to [www.magnt.nt.gov.au](http://www.magnt.nt.gov.au)

The 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* 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.

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.



**Australian Government**  
**Visual Arts and Craft Strategy**  
**Northern Territory**

