

9 September 2008

Voting in Silver Jubilee People's Choice Award Closing Soon

The public have until this Sunday, 14 September 2008 to select their favourite artwork for the People's Choice Award. The winner will be selected from entrants in this year's 25th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*.

MAGNT Acting Director Apolline Kohen said this year's Silver Jubilee marked an important milestone for the Telstra Art Award and urged the public to vote.

"The judges have chosen their winners, and now it's the public's turn to support their favourite piece," Ms Kohen said.

"Attendance to the exhibition has been very strong with more than 20,000 people visiting MAGNT since the Telstra Art Award opened on 15 August 2008.

"At this stage more than 200 votes have been counted, and votes will continue to be collected until 5pm on Sunday," she continued.

To vote in the People's Choice Award, visit the Telstra Art Award exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin, pick up a voting form and drop it in the ballot box within the gallery.

The new Telstra Art Award website, which offers users from around the world the opportunity to view images of this year's artworks through a virtual tour of the gallery, has also been very popular with more than 3,000 visitors since its launch.

The \$40,000 Telstra Award was awarded to Kintore artist Makinti Napanangka for her untitled synthetic on polymer paint on linen, that depicted designs associated with the site of Lupulnga, a rockhole situated south of the Kintore Community.

The \$4,000 Telstra General Painting Award was awarded to Doreen Reid Nakamarra, originally from the Warburton Ranges, Western Australia for her untitled work. Doreen's painting depicts designs associated with the rockhole site of Marrapinti, west of the Pollock Hills in Western Australia.

The \$4,000 Telstra Bark Painting Award was awarded to Terry Ngamandara Wilson from Gochan Jinyjirra in the Northern Territory, for his work *Gulach – Spike Rush*. A senior custodian of the Gun-gulol Gurrenyinga group of clans Terry's work depicts a key emblem of the clans.

The \$4,000 Telstra Works on Paper was awarded to Dennis Nona from Badu Island, Torres Strait, Queensland, for his etching on paper, *Dugam*. Winner of last year's \$40,000 *Telstra Award* for his 3.5m bronze crocodile *Ubirikubiri*, Dennis is widely acknowledged as an important Torres Strait Islander artist.

The \$4,000 Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award, sponsored by Telstra, was awarded to Yolgnu artist Nypanyapa Yunupingu from Yirrkala in the Northern Territory, for her work *Incident at Mutpi (1975)*.

The 25th Jubilee *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is on display until Sunday 26 October 2008 at the MAGNT. To view the online gallery go to www.magnt.nt.gov.au

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 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.

