



Media Release:

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Darby Ross Tribute Exhibition

An exhibition honouring inspirational Warlpiri elder and renowned artist Darby Jampuinpa Ross will be displayed at the Araluen Arts Centre from this Saturday 22 November 2008.

Araluen Arts Centre Publicity and Promotions Officer Kelsey Rodda said the exhibition features 52 pieces of work and celebrates the role of Darby Ross as a senior founding artist and mentor at the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Association.

“Warlukurlangu is one of Australia’s most successful remote community art enterprises, and is a tribute to Darby’s dedication and commitment to the arts,” Ms Rodda said.

“Darby Ross became one of the most significant and visible ambassadors for Walpiri culture in Central Australia, having contributed extensively to the introduction and acceptance of Aboriginal knowledge systems in both the scientific community and mainstream Australia.

“He was also among the first Aboriginal curators in Australia when he was given ‘visitor curator’ status at the South Australian Museum in the 1960’s.”

Darby Ross passed away in late 2005, just one day after receiving a telegram from The Queen to congratulate him on turning 100 years old.

“In almost 20 years of painting on canvas Darby Ross never held a solo exhibition, preferring instead to participate in group shows, and made fewer than 200 works,” Ms Rodda said.

“This exhibition is the first celebration of his story as an artist and features a selection of his paintings on loan from important museum and private collections including the National Gallery of Australia and National Gallery of Victoria.

“We are honoured to host this remarkable exhibition, particularly given his deep connection to the Yuendumu community and his contribution to Central Australian art.”

Darby Jampuinpa Ross: Make it good for the people will be on display at the Araluen Arts Centre from 22 November 2008 until 25 January 2009.

For more information about the Araluen Arts Centre contact 8951 1120 or go to www.araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Kelsey Rodda on 8951 1132

Image – Darby Ross at Juka Juka with ‘Ngaparkurlangu’, 1989 (Image courtesy of National Archive of Australia)

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