

12 August 2009

Telstra Art Award Opens Friday

The 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award is set to open at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in Darwin this Friday, 14 August 2009.

MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz said the opening, which is open to the public, kicks off with the award ceremony where the much anticipated winner of the \$40,000 Telstra Art Award is announced in addition to the four category winners.

"The opening night of the *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is always a highlight of Australia's art events calendar and attracts visitors and artists from all over the country," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"This is the public's opportunity to view this year's final selection of 93 Indigenous art works in the Telstra Art Award.

"Entertainment highlights of the evening include the Western Australian Lorrae Coffin band, a performance by the Gary Lang NT Dance Company and the Tiwi Islands group B2M, which features six young Indigenous men who perform RnB pop with a traditional twist."

Guest speaker at the ceremony will be the well known Territory actor and musician Tom E. Lewis.

Following the award ceremony visitors are invited to view the exhibition which includes paintings, three-dimensional works, barks and works on paper.

Georgia Symmons, General Manager of Telstra's Indigenous Directorate, said the opportunity to present the exhibition to the public was an honour for Telstra.

"We are extremely proud to be associated with the awards and to play a part in giving the public the chance to view these outstanding works of Indigenous art," Ms Symmons said.

Now in its 26th year, the Telstra Art Award is the longest-running art award dedicated to the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and has come to be regarded as one of the premier national events in the Australian Indigenous art community.

All artworks will be featured in an interactive website www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa, which offers users from around the world the opportunity to view moving images of this year's artworks and listen to recordings of the story behind the works through a virtual online gallery from 7pm Friday, 14 August 2009.

The 26th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* will be on display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory until Sunday, 25 October 2009.

The 26th *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
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