



**Media Release:**

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## **ReCoil Concludes National Tour at MAGNT**

A national touring exhibition *ReCoil: Change and Exchange in Coiled Fibre Art* featuring works in fibre will conclude at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) with the exhibition set to open this Saturday, 28 November 2009 and remain on display until Sunday, 2 May 2010.

*ReCoil: Change and Exchange in Coiled Fibre Art* was first displayed in November 2007 at the Araluen Arts Centre, since then it has been toured by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring to five other locations including the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Artback NT Curator Margie West said the exhibition introduces some of the most recent, innovative and important developments in contemporary Australian fibre practices.

“One of the central themes of the exhibition is the coiled basketry technique and the way it has spread and diversified over the past two decades,” Ms West said.

“This basketry technique was traditionally practiced by Aboriginal people of south east Australia and was transplanted by missionaries many years ago to Arnhem Land,” Ms West said.

“More recently the technique was introduced via workshops to women of desert regions in Central Australia, South Australia and Western Australia, and has spread rapidly along lines of kinship and through skills exchanges.

“As the weavers travel the influence of coiling continues to expand and it is now practiced throughout the remote regions of the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and as far west as the Pilbara, Kalgoorlie and down to Coober Pedy.”

Non-Indigenous Australian fibre artists have also been influenced by the coiling technique and *ReCoil* highlights this inter-cultural exchange by featuring works of 12 Indigenous and three non-Indigenous artists’, with eight of the 15 artists featured in the exhibition from the Territory.

Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Anna Malgorzewicz said the strength of coiling in the Top End and Desert regions of the Territory makes the exhibition particularly relevant to Territory audiences.

“Some of the quirkier pieces in the show include a smaller version of the Grass Toyota that won the *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* in 2005, a woven Biplane, a grass skull as well as more traditional pieces including woven baskets and mats,” Ms Malgorzewicz said.

Artback NT Curator Margie West will provide a free curatorial floor talk in the gallery at 11am, Saturday 28 November. All welcome and bookings are not required.

*The development and tour of this exhibition has been generously sponsored by Visions of Australia, an Australian government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia. Additional support has been provided by the Northern Territory Government through the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS), ERA and Rio Tinto.*

**Media Note – for more information contact Margie West on 0408 889 695**

**Image – *Truck and Driver* by Kantjupayi Benson, materials include grass, raffia, string, wool, wire, mesh and wheels. Image courtesy of Tjanpi Desert Weavers.**

To view and use some of the other images from the exhibition go to [www.nt.gov.au/magnt/mediaimages](http://www.nt.gov.au/magnt/mediaimages), user ID: nretamag, password: tough1

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