

## Ancestors represented in Arnhem Land artists New Media work

19 July 2010

Arnhem Land artist, Nawurapu Wunungmurra is one of only 96 artists announced as a finalist in this year's 27<sup>th</sup> Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award for his new media work, *Mokuy*.

Nawurapu, the eldest son of the late Yangarriny Wununmurra (1997 Telstra Art Award winner) first entered the Telstra Art Award in 1995 and has been a finalist in six Telstra Art Award exhibitions over the last 15 years.

Nawurapu's entry features a series of suspended, delicate, three dimensional mokuy (spirits) with an accompanying projected image, conceptually connecting the old with the new.

Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre Coordinator Andrew Blake said following Nawurapu's mokuy figures' first public exposure at the Darwin Raft Artspace in 2008, they were invited to be shown at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Moscow Biennale, 2009.

"At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Moscow Biennale, 2009, the mokuy carvings appeared to move from one location to another in the vast exhibition space under the cover of night, much to the delight of the curators and all involved," Andrew said.

Telstra Art Award Curator, Kate Podger said there had been a diverse range of artworks submitted, from traditional works on paper, paintings, barks and three dimensional artworks to, for the first time, entries in the Telstra New Media Award.

"I congratulate all of the artists from across Australia who entered this year - the Telstra Art Award continues to evolve and grow to offer new opportunities for Indigenous artists to showcase their extraordinary talents," Ms Podger said.

Telstra Chief Marketing Officer, Kate McKenzie, said the Telstra Art Award provides an important national showcase for the work of Indigenous artists from all around the country.

"We're proud that Telstra's support of the Telstra Art Award for the last 19 years has helped Indigenous artists like Nawurapu Wunungmurra gain recognition, and enabled more Australians to see their outstanding work," Ms McKenzie said.

Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, the Telstra Art Award is the first and longest running art award dedicated to the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and is an opportunity for Indigenous Australians to express and celebrate their culture, beliefs and society.

The Telstra Art Award comprises the \$40,000 Telstra Award and \$4,000 to other categories including; the Telstra General Painting Award, the Telstra Bark Painting Award, the Telstra Work on Paper Award and the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (also sponsored by Telstra) in addition to the Telstra New Media Award (\$3,000).

The 27<sup>th</sup> Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award exhibition opens on Friday, 13 August 2010. For more information about the Telstra Art Award or to view the online gallery of works from previous Telstra Art Award exhibitions go to [www.magnt.nt.gov.au/natsiaa](http://www.magnt.nt.gov.au/natsiaa). To follow the Telstra Art Award on Twitter go to [www.twitter.com/natsiaa](http://www.twitter.com/natsiaa)

**Media note:** For interviews please phone Anne Marshall on 08 8999 4730

**Image:** Artist Nawurapu Wunungmurra pictured at Yirrkala, Arnhem Land

The 27<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

