

Local Kiwirrkura artist shortlisted in 2010 Telstra Art Award

30 July 2010

Yukultji Napangati, from the Kiwirrkura community in Western Australia is one of only 96 artists announced as a finalist in this year's 27th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* for her untitled painting.

The Kiwirrkura community hosts a dynamic group of painters, including last year's 2008 General Painting Award winner, Yinarupa Nangala, a fellow member of Papunya Tula Artists.

Yukultji's untitled work depicts designs associated with Yunala, a rock hole and soakage water site situated among sand hills to the west of the Kiwirrkura community.

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 Yukultji Napangati gain recognition, and enabled more Australians to see their outstanding work," Ms McKenzie said.

Now in its 27th 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 27th *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. To follow the Telstra Art Award on Twitter go to www.twitter.com/natsiaa

Media note: For media interviews call Karlie Weinert on 08 8999 4730 to arrange.

Image: Yukultji Napangati

The 27th *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



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