

12 August 2010

2010 Telstra Art Award Category Winners

Works that have displayed aesthetic power and technical mastery have taken out the five category awards at the 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA).

Minister for Arts and Museums Gerry McCarthy and Telstra Country Wide Executive Managing Director Mr Brett Riley today announced the NATSIAA's five category winners in conjunction with the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

For the first time the overall \$40,000 Telstra Art Award winner will be selected from the five category winners with the winner to be announced Friday, 13 August 2010.

This year's five category winners are:

The \$4,000 Telstra General Painting Award was awarded to SA artist Mr Donegan for his work titled *Papa Tjukurpa* and *Pukara*. Jimmy's work relays ancestral stories from both his father's and grandfather's country and is striking for its immensely strong composition held together across a diversity of painting styles.

The \$4,000 Telstra Bark Painting Award was awarded to Glen Namundja from Gunbalanya (Western Arnhem Land) Northern Territory for his work titled *Kunabibbe Ceremony at Manmoyi*. Glen's work on bark is reminiscent of an earlier style and form of bark painting in this region with a sensitive placement of figures within the overall composition and the impeccable *rarrk*. Glen won the Telstra Works on Paper category award in last year's 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

The \$4,000 Telstra Works on Paper was awarded to Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona for his work titled *Saula!*. Dennis' work depicts the narrative of migrating turtles and seabirds - using separate plates for each visual element is striking for its nuanced textures and finely shaded details. Dennis won the \$40,000 Telstra Art Award at the 24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award in 2007.

The \$4,000 Wandjuk Marika Memorial Three-Dimensional Award, sponsored by Telstra was awarded to Wukun Wanambi from Yirrkala (North East Arnhem Land) Northern Territory for his work titled *Bamurrungu*. Wakun's work stood out for its intricate painting depicting circles of milk fish and the converging currents coupled with an inspired choice of a swollen and incised log to evoke the site of Bamurrungu.

The \$3000 inaugural Telstra New Media Award was awarded to Nawurapu Wunungmurra from Gangan (Arnhem Land) Northern Territory for his work titled *Mokuy*. Using black and white carved mokuy figures, dramatic lighting and film footage accessed from Buku-Larrnggay Mulka archives the artist brings the sacred ground of Balambala (Garma) to life.

Telstra Art Award curator Kate Podger congratulated all the category winners and the pre-selected artists for their contribution to showcase the best Indigenous art from across the nation.

"2010 is a year of growth and evolution for the Awards and is especially exciting with the inclusion of the inaugural Telstra New Media Award," Ms Podger said.

"I wish to thank everyone who has helped make this year's Telstra Art Award a fantastic exhibition and Telstra for the continued sponsorship of this prestigious Award."

Telstra Country Wide Executive Managing Director Brett Riley said the rich diversity of the art forms employed by the artists is part of what makes these Awards so dynamic.

"Artists are renowned for pushing the boundaries, and this year, to keep pace with the evolving nature of contemporary Indigenous art, we introduced the New Media Award which has brought fresh ideas and ways of expression to the Awards.

“We’re delighted to see so many artists embrace the new category, and congratulate all 96 artists who have been short-listed in the 2010 Telstra Art Award, creating this spectacular exhibition,” continued Mr Riley.

The 27th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* judges were Djambawa Marawili AM and Dr Sylvia Kleinert.

Artworks in this year’s exhibition will be featured on 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 4pm Friday, 13 August 2010.

To follow the Telstra Art Award on Twitter go to www.twitter.com/natsiaa.

The 27th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* exhibition will be on display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory until Sunday, 7 November 2010.

For media inquiries or to arrange interviews/photographs please contact:

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Images from the media preview featuring winning artists with their works is available online from Friday, 13 August 2010. Go to www.nt.gov.au/magnt/mediaimages, user ID: nretamag, password: tough1

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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