

Media Release:

21.02.11

Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture at Araluen Arts Centre

A fascinating touring exhibition displaying contemporary Indigenous sculpture, titled *Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture* will open at the Araluen Arts Centre on Friday, 25 February 2011.

Object Gallery and the Australian Museum in Sydney have collaborated to bring this nationally touring, groundbreaking exhibition to Araluen Arts Centre, with works featuring the unique sculptures of 33 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said the exhibition is part of a national tour that travels to eight venues across the country, estimated to reach more than 200,000 people at the end of its two and a half year tour.

"The artists that have their work featured in *Menagerie* were selected by the exhibition's curators who conducted months of research and travel in pursuit of exposing the richness and breadth of Australia's contemporary Indigenous sculpture," Mr Rollason said.

"The array of works featured in *Menagerie* includes fibre works by Yvonne Koolmatrie from South Australia; ceramics by Judith Inkamala from the Northern Territory; and mixed media assemblages by Canberra-based artist and winner of the 2009 Telstra Art Award, Danie Mellor.

"To have an exhibition of this calibre make its way to Alice Springs is a rare opportunity and I encourage locals and visitors to come to Araluen Arts Centre to experience progressive Indigenous sculpture."

Object Gallery Director, Steven Pozel said this collection of animal sculptures reveals individual stories of both the object and maker.

"*Menagerie* celebrates the art and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and demonstrated the sophistication and diversity of Indigenous art, craft and design in Australia," Mr Pozel said.

Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture will open in at Araluen Arts Centre on Friday, 25 February 2011 and will be on display until Sunday 10 April 2011.

For more information about upcoming events at the Araluen Cultural Precinct go to www.araluen.nt.gov.au

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1126.

Image – Grath Lena, *Echidna*, 2006, mango wood and porcelain, 36 x 51 x 67cm. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Australian Museum.

Issued: 1.40pm Monday, 21 February 2011.



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Visual Arts and Craft Strategy
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