

Friday, 11 March 2011

## Final Week to Enter Australia's Most Prestigious Indigenous Art Award

Entries are rolling in for the premier national event on the Indigenous art calendar the *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*. Indigenous artists have until next week's closing date, Friday 18 March 2011 for a chance to be part of it.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) Senior Curator of Indigenous Art and Material Culture Dr Christiane Keller will curate the 28<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* and is encouraging all artists to finalise their entries before the closing date.

"The *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* is unique in that it's open to all Indigenous artists across the country," Dr Keller said.

"It also offers artists a fantastic opportunity to have their work showcased among the best in contemporary Indigenous art when the exhibition is held at MAGNT in Darwin from Thursday, 11 August 2011.

"Last year's winner, 70 year-old Mr Donegan, of Ninuku Arts from the Kalka community in SA, had never entered an art award before taking home the \$40,000 Telstra Art Award for his magnificent work *Papa Tjukurpa, Pukara*.

"I am particularly looking forward to seeing lots of entries coming in for the New Media category, which has become a permanent inclusion in the *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* following the success of last year's inaugural Telstra New Media Award."

Telstra Group Managing Director and Award Ambassador Kate McKenzie said Telstra is encouraging all Indigenous artists to submit their work for the Awards.

"The call for entries is an exciting time of the year when we discover ground-breaking works from experienced artists as well as emerging new talent. The Telstra Art Award draws the best contemporary Indigenous art from all corners of Australia," Ms McKenzie said.

The Telstra Art Award comprises the \$40,000 Telstra Award and the following five categories:

- Telstra General Painting Award \$4,000
- Telstra Bark Painting Award \$4,000
- Telstra Work on Paper Award \$4,000
- Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (also sponsored by Telstra) \$4,000
- Telstra New Media Award \$4,000

For an entry form, please contact the Award Coordinator at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, GPO Box 4646, DARWIN NT 0801, phone 08 8999 8203, email [natsiaa@nt.gov.au](mailto:natsiaa@nt.gov.au) or go to [www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa](http://www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa)

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**Media note:** For interviews please contact Karlie Weinert on 08 8999 4730.

The 28<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.

