



Gerry McCarthy
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND MUSEUMS

19 May 2011

Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Finalists Unveiled

Arts Minister Gerry McCarthy today announced the finalists for this year's 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

A total of 62 artists have been selected from 327 entries for this year's Telstra Art Award and will be competing for the prize pool of \$60,000 and national acclaim.

"I am delighted to see that regional and remote areas across Australia are once again well represented in this year's award, with finalists from Arnhem Land, the desert regions of SA, WA and NT, Torres Strait Islands, Kimberley and Pilbara regions," Mr McCarthy said.

Minister McCarthy said the pre-selection panel met at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory from the 13-15 April and had a very challenging task of selecting the finalists due to the high standard of works presented.

"I would like to thank the pre-selection panel made up of the three judges Danie Mellor, Nici Cumpston and Judith Ryan, curator Christiane Keller and panel members Bruce Tindale and Cath Bowdler – I know they have had a tough job selecting from such an impressive range of entrants," Minister McCarthy said.

"MAGNT now look forward to receiving the art works over the coming weeks and to installing the exhibition for the grand opening and announcement of winners which will take place in Darwin on Thursday 11 August 2011."

Judges will reconvene a week prior to the opening to select the five category winners and overall winner of the \$40,000 Telstra Art Award.

The 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award includes:

- \$40,000 Telstra Award
- \$4,000 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

Follow the 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award on Twitter at www.twitter.com/natsiaa and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/telstraartawards

The 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award is supported by Telstra and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Finalists comprise the following state and territory representation; NT (33), QLD (5), TAS (1), SA (12) and WA (11).

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