

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

Gallery Installation Underway for 28th Telstra Art Award

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is a hive of activity as conservators, workshop crew, collection management and public program staff are busy installing works for the 28th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* announced on 11 August.

Telstra Art Award curator Dr Christiane Keller said the installation is a significant step in the countdown to the Awards opening night, which is now just over two weeks away.

"This year visitors to the Award exhibition will be treated to a striking range of works on display, of large proportions and made using a diverse range of materials," Dr Keller said.

"It has been a deliciously challenging process to curate an exhibition with 62 works of great diversity in size and medium ranging from a very small paper sculpture to three meter wide acrylic paintings.

"Since artworks started arriving, MAGNT staff have been busy preparing the artworks by stretching, framing and mounting works for display in the Ken Waters Gallery at the Museum.

"The Telstra Art Award is the premier national event in the Indigenous art calendar and provides the general public access to an amazing exhibition of contemporary Indigenous art."

Telstra Chief Customer Officer, Gordon Ballantyne, said he is looking forward to seeing the extraordinary works unveiled at the Museum in August.

"The *Telstra Art Award* is a wonderful platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to showcase their talent and share their artwork with the nation. I have no doubt the quality and variety of works will be of the highest calibre," Mr Ballantyne said.

The Telstra Art Award now comprises the \$40,000 Telstra Award and \$4,000 each to the categories the Telstra General Painting Award, Telstra Bark Painting Award, Telstra Work on Paper Award, Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (also sponsored by Telstra) and the Telstra New Media Award.

The 28th *National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* exhibition opens, and award presentations will be made, on Thursday 11 August 2011.

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Media note: For interviews please contact Aimee Cadan on 08 8999 4730.

Image 1: MAGNT Director Pierre Arpin, Award Curator Christiane Keller and Telstra Country Wide Area General Manager Northern Territory Brian O'Keefe inspect one of the pre-selected works.

Image 2: Award Curator Christiane Keller installs the pre-selected work: Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, *Dinni's chess set*, Synthetic polymer paint on wood

The 28th *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.

