

Friday, 5 August 2011

Central Australian artist shortlisted in 2011 Telstra Art Award

Tangentyere Artist, Margaret Boko from Alice Springs in the Northern Territory has been announced as a finalist in the 28th *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* (Telstra Art Award) for her painting titled "Looking for Kampurarrpa...". 55 x 40cm, *Acrylic on Canvas, 2010*.

Margaret has used her trademark vibrant colour, pictures and text to illustrate a special moment in her life in the bush with her family, looking for Kampurarrpa, also known as bush berries or desert raisin.

Tangentyere Artists marketing office Anisha Stiffold said Margaret Boko will be attending the award ceremony together with fellow Tangentyere Artist, Betty Conway.

"Both artists are looking forward to the event and in particular, seeing Margaret's work hung along side Indigenous art from other regions of Australia," Ms Stiffold said.

"What we are looking forward most is Margaret's visual reflections of her trip to Darwin. She is such a fantastic story-teller and no doubt this will be inspiration for another one of Margaret's wonderful stories."

Margaret has established herself as a well respected Central Australian artist, with her inspirational works of life in the desert featuring regularly in Indigenous art exhibitions throughout the Northern Territory and interstate.

Telstra Art Award Curator, Dr Christiane Keller congratulated all the artists that have been selected for this year's exhibition which contains artworks of outstanding quality ranging across all media.

"The Telstra Art Award is the first and longest running Indigenous art award in Australia and has been instrumental in providing an exciting national platform for Indigenous artists," Dr Keller said.

Local Telstra Country Wide Area General Manager Northern Territory, Brian O'Keefe added that it was encouraging to see indigenous artists from the Northern Territory recognised for their artistic talent.

"The Telstra Art Award continues to welcome fresh talent and new perspectives, providing an avenue for Indigenous artists to share their stories with the rest of the nation," he said.

Although fast approaching the 30th year, the Telstra Art Award is constantly keeping pace with the evolving world of Indigenous art as seen through the inclusion of the Telstra New Media Award as a permanent category this year.

The Telstra Art Award now comprises the \$40,000 Telstra Award and \$4,000 to the categories including 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 with Telstra Art Award finalists contact Aimee Cadan on 08 8999 4730.

Image: Margaret Boko

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.

