



Media Release:

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Desert Mob 2011 Launches at the Centre

Aboriginal art and culture from across Central Australia will be showcased in Alice Springs this weekend as Desert Mob 2011 opens at Araluen Arts Centre on Friday, 9 September 2011.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said the event brings together members of Desart (the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres) to celebrate the vibrancy of Aboriginal art from this region.

“This event provides an opportunity for the public to view and purchase artworks from both emerging and established artists all in one place, directly from the art centres,” said Mr Rollason.

“Desert Mob offers a unique experience in the Australian art calendar, drawing art enthusiasts, collectors and artists from across Australia, as it is the only exhibition in the country that offers a clear snapshot of contemporary art from Aboriginal-owned art centres in Central Australia, with the opportunity to purchase works.

“We had visitor numbers exceeding 3,500 last year, with the Exhibition generating more than \$400,000 in sales, and we anticipate even more interest in this year’s event.”

Mr Rollason said the quality of the more than 300 artworks submitted this year is extremely high, offering a diverse range of mediums that include acrylic paintings and prints, as well as sculpture in a variety of materials including fibre, metal and other found materials.

Vivien Johnson, author and eminent scholar of Australian Indigenous art, will officially open the Exhibition at 4:45pm on Friday, and the gallery will remain open until 8pm.

Visitors will also get a chance to hear from the artists and art centres at the Desert Mob Symposium, which takes place on Friday from 10:30am to 3:30pm at the Araluen Theatre.

The theme for this year’s event is *Arelhe Mape Irrperreme – Bringing Everyone Together*, and the vibrant program features dance, stories, music and short films.

On Saturday, 10 September 2011, art lovers can find beautiful works and great deals at the Desert Mob MarketPlace, held from 10am to 4pm at the Centre.

The popular indoor and outdoor market features stall after stall of affordable Aboriginal arts, crafts and other products from Desart member art centres.

“By purchasing artworks from Desert Mob, you can be assured that you are buying ethically from Aboriginal-owned art centres and therefore guaranteeing maximum financial benefit for those centres and the exhibiting artists,” said Mr Rollason.

For more information on Desert Mob 2011, go to www.desertmob.nt.gov.au. To find out about upcoming events at Araluen Arts Centre, go to www.araluen.nt.gov.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information, contact Kelsey Rodda on 8951 1132.

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