

11 August 2009

Gallery Installation for Telstra Art Award

The installation of 93 works for this year's Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award is being finalised this week at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin.

MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz said the two galleries that will house the Telstra Art Award exhibition are abuzz with activity as the opening nears, with MAGNT conservators, workshop crew, collection management and public programs staff undertaking the installation.

"The countdown to opening night is only three days away and the Telstra Art Award is such an exciting event to be part of, each year it features such an amazing array of diverse and exceptional quality Indigenous art," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"The 93 pre-selected pieces comprise of general paintings, three-dimensional works comprising sculptures, fibre works, and ceramics, bark paintings and works on paper.

"We have some wonderful pieces in this year's exhibition, with works pre-selected from regional centres and communities to towns and cities across Australia.

"The works arrived two months ago and since then staff from MAGNT have been busy preparing the artworks: framing works on paper, stretching paintings on canvas and preparing supports for three-dimensional works.

"The Telstra Art Award not only provides the opportunity for Indigenous artists to receive recognition for their art, but it also provides the general public with access to an important representative exhibition of contemporary Indigenous art."

Georgia Symmons, General Manager of Telstra's Indigenous Directorate, said Telstra is very proud to be involved in the award which helps ensure the continued development of Indigenous art in Australia, while also playing a key role in driving the flourishing Australian art industry.

"We are looking forward to the announcement of winners in August – the talent in this year's award is simply inspiring," Ms Symmons said.

Now in its 26th year, the Telstra Art Award is the longest-running art award dedicated to the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and has come to be regarded as one of the premier national events in the Australian Indigenous art community.

The overall \$40 000 Telstra Award and further four media categories ensure a high profile for the winning artists, who can retain or sell their works due to the non-acquisitive nature of the Award.

The Telstra Art Award is open to all adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and aims to showcase the very best Australian Indigenous art from around the country.

Winners in the Telstra Art Award will be announced on the exhibitions opening night, Friday, 14 August 2009 at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and works will be on display until Sunday, 25 October 2009. For more information go to www.magnt.nt.gov.au/natsiaa

Media Note - For media interviews please contact Anna Malgorzewicz on 8999 8220

Image – MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz overseeing the 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award installation.

The 26th 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

