

22 October 2009

Telstra Art Award Exhibition and Online Vote Closes This Sunday

The 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in Darwin is set to close this Sunday 25 October 2009 with the online vote for the People's Choice Award also closing at 6pm Darwin time on Sunday.

MAGNT Telstra Art Award Coordinator Natalie Merida encouraged those that hadn't already visited the exhibition to come along and see the works.

"This year's exhibition has been really exciting, and features such a vast array of styles of Indigenous art from the traditional to the contemporary," Ms Merida said.

"Attendance to the exhibition has been very strong with more than 46,000 people visiting MAGNT since the Telstra Art Award opened on 14 August 2009.

"This year we also have for the first time an online virtual vote for visitors worldwide who can't attend the exhibition at MAGNT to choose their favourite work of art."

The total value of the artworks featured in the 26th Telstra Art Award is well over \$1 million and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory has acquired artworks from the exhibition which will be part of MAGNT's permanent Indigenous collection.

The artworks acquired from the 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award include:

- Djibigula Dhyagunga, *Pandanus Mat*, pandanus, natural dyes
- Marina Murdilnga, *Butterfly*, pandanus, natural dyes
- Graham Badari, *Namarlpe (Pandanus Spirit) & Kuluban (Fruit Bats)*, natural pigments on bark;
- Mitjili Napanangka Gibson, *Kunamanararra*, synthetic polymer on canvas
- Omborin, *Tolod Tolod*, synthetic polymer on linen
- Nyapanyapa Yunupingu, *Dharpa – Wild Apples*, etching on paper

Georgia Symmons, General Manager of Telstra's Indigenous Directorate, congratulated all the artists that entered the 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

"Telstra is thrilled that so many Australians have had the opportunity to experience such outstanding works of Indigenous art," Ms Symmons said.

"If they haven't had the chance to see them in person, we encourage people to view the works online, and vote in the online poll for their favourite work."

The online virtual vote will be announced next Wednesday 28 October 2009. To view and vote in the online People's Choice Award go to www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa

The 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award will be on display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory until Sunday, 25 October 2009.

Ends

Media Note – For interviews please phone Anne Marshall on 8999 4730

Images –

Marina Murdilnga, *Butterfly*, pandanus, natural dyes

Mitjili Napanangka Gibson, *Kunamanararra*, synthetic polymer paint on canvas.

Issued: 9am Thursday, 22 October 2009

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



Australian Government

Visual Arts and Craft Strategy

Northern Territory

