

Media Release:

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Indigenous Art Award to Light Up the Small Screen

Australia's most prestigious and longest-running Indigenous Art Award will feature in a Territory produced documentary *From Dreamtime to Now: Telstra Art Award* to be screened across the Northern Territory on Southern Cross TV at 5.30pm this Saturday, 3 October 2009.

The Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, held annually at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in Darwin, has long been regarded as one of the premier national events in the Australian Indigenous art community.

MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz said from the preparation through to the awards ceremony the documentary takes you behind-the-scenes and centre stage.

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

"We're thrilled with the documentary as it will give viewers a unique insight into how the exhibition and awards come together."

From Dreamtime to Now: Telstra Art Award will have a repeat screening on Southern Cross TV at 5.30pm on Saturday, 17 October 2009 and will be screened on National Indigenous Television (NITV) in the future.

Simon Manzie, Director of local Territory production company Simon Says Television, said this is the first time a documentary has been produced solely about the Telstra Art Award.

"*From Dreamtime to Now* offers Territorians an exclusive opportunity to meet the winners, hear about what inspired their works and what it means to them to be part of the awards," Mr Manzie said.

"The documentary also shines a spotlight on the Northern Territory as home of the prestigious awards and at the forefront of Indigenous art and culture.

"It's also fantastic to see the Northern Territory Government engage with the local Territory screen industry to produce the documentary, and we have high hopes of this reaching national and international audiences.

From Dreamtime to Now host and local television presenter Sarah Tucker said she was honoured to be part of making the documentary and to meet everyone involved in this year's Telstra Art Award from the winning artists to the judges, curator, MAGNT director, and the sponsor.

"The Telstra Art Award has seen an amazing array of work over its 26 years from the small ornate objects to the large painted canvases, and it made me realise how lucky Territorians are to be able to view such incredible Indigenous art on our doorstep," Ms Tucker said.

DVD copies of the documentary *From Dreamtime to Now* will be available to purchase from the MAGNT Shop by mid October 2009.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Anna Malgorzewicz on 8999 8220, Simon Manzie on 8947 3535 and Sarah Tucker on 0488 344 384

Image – Sarah Tucker with *Dinni's Dream Team* by Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, synthetic polymer paint on wood, 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award 2009.

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