



TELSTRA NATSIAA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

68 artists from across Australia have been selected as finalists in the 2019 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), Australia's most illustrious and long standing Indigenous art awards.

280 entries were submitted by First Nation artists from regional and urban areas across Australia, with the selection of finalists taking place last week in Sydney.

35 finalists are from the Northern Territory, with 16 from Western Australia, eight from South Australia and the remainder from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Telstra NATSIAA is diverse and accessible, welcoming entries from established and emerging artists who inspire audiences across Australia. This year's exhibition highlights eight finalists for the Telstra Emerging Artist Award from across Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

MAGNT Director Marcus Schutenko said: "MAGNT is thrilled to receive such an exciting range of emerging and established artists' entries from each Australian state and territory. This year, the selection panel have identified a range of artwork across a large breadth of mediums. I wish to congratulate the well-deserved 68 finalists for their accolade."

Telstra CEO Andrew Penn said: "Telstra's connection to the NATSIAA stretches back nearly 30 years and we are always incredibly proud to be involved. The Awards now stand as a globally significant artistic celebration and enormous credit for that must go to MAGNT for providing such a brilliant showcase for the unique creativity and diverse talents of Indigenous artists. The quality and scope of the work this year is again superb. Whatever the style, whatever the medium, there is an extraordinary power and beauty in Indigenous art and I cannot wait to see it in person when the winners are announced in August."

MAGNT Curator of Aboriginal Art Luke Scholes said, "Once again, the calibre of this year's Telstra NATSIAA finalists is extraordinary. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art continues to evolve, and Telstra NATSIAA continues to be *the* place to witness this shift in process."

"The Emerging Artist category continues to breathe new life into the Awards and the broader arts sector. It's rewarding to profile these trailblazing artists and to share their skill, voice and cultures."

The winners of the 36th Telstra NATSIAA will be announced at an awards ceremony at MAGNT's Bullocky Point facility on Friday 9 August 2019.

- END MEDIA RELEASE -

Selected artists and representatives from MAGNT and Telstra are available to interview on request.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Finalists

Northern Territory

B. Yunupingu
Barayuwa Mununggurr
Betty Kuntiwa Pumani
Billy Tjampijinpa Kenda
Deborah Wurrkidj
Dhuwarrwarr Marika
Donald Thompson
Djambawa Marawili
Gary Lee
Grace Robinya
Gunybi Ganambarr
Gutingarra Yunupingu
Iluwanti Ken
Lance James
Lena Yarinkura
Lynette Lewis
Malaluba Gumana
Mantua Nangala
Marlene Rubuntja
Mary Dhapalany
Matjangka (Nyukana)
Norris
Mick Wikilyiri
Napuwarri Marawili
Neville McArthur
Nola Campbell
Nongirrnja Marawili
Nyunmiti Burton
Owen Yalandja
Sally M Mulda
Titus Nganjmirra
Tony Cameron
Wawiriya Burton
Witjiti George
Wurrandan Marawili
Yaritji Young
Yimula Mununggurr

Victoria

Cassie Leatham
Christopher Pease
James Tylor
Kent Morris

Australian Capital Territory

Krystal Hurst

New South Wales

Dean Cross

Queensland

Danie Mellor

Robert Tommy Pau

South Australia

Carlene Thompson

Damien Shen

Ernabella Arts

Kaylene Whiskey

Nici Cumpston

Pepai Carroll

Peter Mungkuri

Rupert Jack

Western Australia

Bob Gibson

Bugai Whyoulter

Daisy Japulija

Fred Grant

Glenn Iseger- Pilkington

John Prince Siddon

Lawrence Pennington

Mabel Juli

Mervyn Street

Myrtle Pennington

Ned Grant

Ngarralja Tommy May

Nyaparu Gardiner

Rusty Peters

Sonia Kurarra

Timo Hogan

The year's Telstra NATSIAA Awards Judging Panel will bring their diverse experiences to the nation's first, most prestigious and longest-running awards dedicated to Indigenous art and artists. The presiding judges will present the awards at the Telstra NATSIAA Opening Night and Awards Ceremony on Friday 9 August.

Judges Panel

- **Rhana Devenport** was appointed the Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) 2018, and was previously the Director of the Auckland Art Gallery since 2013. Prior to New Zealand, Devenport was based in Brisbane on the Asia Pacific Triennial at the Queensland Gallery of Art.
- **Pedro Wonaeamirri (Gurrumaiyuwa)** is a Tiwi artist who has travelled and exhibited nationally and internationally, and his work is represented in Australian state galleries and museums.
- **Zoe Rimmer** is the Senior Curator of Indigenous Cultures at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and a proud member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community. Rimmer is passionate about protecting, preserving and revitalising Indigenous Cultural Heritage.

About the Awards

The Telstra Art Award of \$50,000 is awarded to the work considered by judges to be the most outstanding work across all categories.

Telstra NATSIAA Awards Category Entries

- Telstra Bark Painting Award
- Telstra General Painting Award
- Telstra Works on paper Award
- Wandjuk Marika Memorial Three-Dimensional Award (sponsored by Telstra)
- Telstra Works on Paper Award
- Telstra Multimedia Award
- Telstra Emerging Artist Award

Prizes of \$5,000 are awarded in each of the six categories

The Telstra Emerging Artist Award is awarded from any category to an artist working within their first five years of practice.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists can submit one original work that has not been previously exhibited or made available for sale. All awards are non-acquisitive and entrants are eligible to win one entry.

Collectively the winners this year will receive \$80,000

Opening Night and Awards Ceremony: Friday 9 August 2019

Exhibition dates: Saturday 10 August – Sunday 3 November 2019

Curator: Luke Scholes