People’s Choice Award announced

Minister for Arts and Museums Gerry McCarthy today announced the People’s Choice Award winner of the 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA).

Minister McCarthy said South Australian artist Alison Riley received the most votes for her painting Seven Sisters.

“The NATSIAA exhibition showcases the best Indigenous art in the country right here in the Territory,” Minister McCarthy said.

“This year’s NATSIAA exhibition has proven a major drawcard for Territory locals and tourists and attracted more than 42,000 visitors through MAGNT’s doors since it opened in August.

“It’s also fantastic to see that 37 of the 61 preselected works have been sold to art galleries, museums and art enthusiasts since the exhibition’s opening.

“Congratulations to Alison Riley for receiving the majority of votes to become the People’s Choice Award winner.

“I’m pleased to say that Alison’s work is one of four works that will be permanently part of MAGNT’s collection including work by Angkaliya Curtis, Tiger Palpatja, and Lucy Malirrimurruwuy Wanapuyungu.

“It is part of our strategy under the Territory 2030 plan to continue to see Territorians attending our cultural institutions and events at a very high rate.

“A big thank you to Telstra for their extremely valuable and longstanding partnership as sponsors of this nationally significant art award,” Minister McCarthy said.

Alison comes from the community of Amata, situated in the APY Lands in South Australia. Alison came to paint at Tjala Arts in late 2006. Her mother is Betty Munti - a highly regarded artist working at Tjala Arts. As a child Alison grew up at Pukatja, also known as Ernabella, where she lived and went to school before she and her family moved to Amata around 1990.

Alison said she learnt to paint and batik while at school and then at Ernabellla Arts Inc in Pukatja.

The 28th NATSIAA exhibition closes at MAGNT on Sunday, 30 October 2011 though it can continue to be viewed via the online gallery or through the new NATISAA mobile app. Go to www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa for more information.

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