MEDIA RELEASE

HON KEZIA PURICK MLA
NORTHERN TERRITORY SPEAKER

Date: 18 October 2013

2013 PORTRAIT OF A SENIOR TERRITORIAN ART AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, the Hon Kezia Purick MLA today announced the winners of the 2013 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award.

First prize and winner of the $7000 Acquisition Award is James Nasir for his self portrait titled the last of the Ming’s.

Second prize of $2,000 was awarded to Allison Land for her portrait of Noel Land with the third prize of $500 awarded to Karl Brand for his portrait of June Dowling. The winner of the peoples choice award this year, is Catherine Ann Paton for her portrait of John Hardy OAM.

Mrs Purick advised that there have been 18 entries submitted this year and there was a wide range of styles, the subjects were also from all over the Territory. This event gives an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our Senior Territorians and reflect upon their contributions. The event is also supported by the Chief Minister, the Hon Adam Giles MLA and the Minister for Arts and Museums, the Hon Matt Conlan MLA.

Mrs Purick thanked the Government House Foundation for their generous sponsorship of the Acquisition Award and also thanked the judges, Mr Maurice O’Rordan, the Director of the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art and Mr Colin McDonald QC.

Artworks

James Mason Nasir (self portrait), The Last of the Ming’s
This is a self-portrait of James Nasir. James came to Darwin in 1957 and has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. James was born in Broome in 1946, his mother is a Broome local and his father was head diver for Streeter Pearling Company. James came from Madura Island Indonesia. The first few years he lived at Winnellie in an army hut, where his mother opened a small grocery store in the front part. Later on he moved onto a 27 acre block near Knuckey’s Lagoon in Berrimah, the soil was good plus the hunting and fishing. James worked on the railways and Darwin Tyre Service before working on the Darwin Wharf as a roustabout and crane operator. He worked there for 30 years, He remembers when he was sent home because Cyclone Tracy was coming but he was back the very next day to unload the West Boat with all the food and groceries. James paints most of the time in his

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retirement and loves mixed media. One day he hopes to have a solo exhibition one day and thinks that Darwin is the best place in the world at the moment.

Noel Land painted by Allison Land
Artist - I am an amateur Darwin artist that has painted off and on since high school, although for the past two years I have been painting quite regularly. I started by drawing people while I was in high school by trying to copy images from magazines. I have always been interested in art, however I have had no formal training other than attending some drawing workshops and watching instructional DVD’s on painting techniques.
Subject - Noel Land moved to Darwin from Brisbane in 1976 for the climate, lifestyle and people. Here he met his wife Marie and they raised two children. Noel was the NT Manager of MLC for nine years, and General Manger of the YMCA NT for five years. He has also contributed to the Darwin community by serving as an Alderman for the Darwin City Council from 1986 – 1992, participating in the “Christmas in Darwin” event since 2003 and is a past President and Secretary of Kiwanis Club (Casuarina) since 1982. Noel is a keen tennis player and a gardener.

June Dowling painted by Karl Brand
Artist - Like most immigrants in the 50’s Karl Brand and his family arrived in Australia by boat. He spent his formative years in Adelaide and trained as a graphic designer, working in Adelaide and Sydney for some years. Later he trained as an art teacher and taught in remote and rural South Australia. In 1983, he moved to the Territory for “a few years” and has lived here ever since.
Subject - June was born in Geelong, Victoria in 1925, she trained as a nurse and served in that capacity during World War II. June married and lived for many years in New Guinea. Her two children were born there and retain the balmy tropics in their blood. They all live happily in her moil mansion. June has been a champion freestyle swimmer in her day and developed the famous “jungle kick” to get away from crocodiles.

John Hardy OAM painted by Catherine Ann Paton
Artist - Catherine Paton is a local artist. She has been pleased to enter portraits for this art award for a number of years – her history with the prize sometimes being successful and sometimes controversial. Regardless and undaunted she continues to enter portraits. She paints portraits of anyone on commission. She has painted a number of notable Territorian personalities – Claire Martin, Austin Asche, Galarwuy Yunupingu, Chrisolua Anictomatis, Margaret Somerville, Bishop Ted and the Grey Panthers to name a few. Catherine is also an illustrator for books and computer games and loves creating dragons, fairies and were-rats. Anyone interested in her work is welcome to contact her on Catherine.paton2@bigpond.com.
Subject - John, Marie and five children came to the Territory in 1971, living in Parap’s Drysdale Street. After 13 months daily flying, John and many other junior pilots were retrenched. John recommenced radiography for three years with Royal Darwin Hospital until SAATAS persuaded him to return to aviation.
The Family business employs: Chief pilot – son Greg; commercial development Manager – son Andrew; personal assistant – son Christopher; accounts assistant – daughter Louise; traffic officer and Supervisor – granddaughter Alexandra. Hardy Aviation is the largest general aviation company in Australia and the 4th largest in the world. John and Marie have lived in the same house in Fannie Bay for nearly 30 years. The children (except Jane in W.A) and eight grandchildren live close by. The family share sailing and other water sports. John and Marie will never leave the Territory – It has shaped their lives.