Almost 300 works from 31 art centres have arrived at the Araluen Art Centre in Alice Springs ahead of next week’s annual Desert Mob exhibition.

“For lovers of art, Alice Springs is the place to be next week with a feast of events on offer at the Desert Mob exhibition, which is one of the highlights on Central Australia’s calendar,” said Minister for Arts and Museums Matt Conlan.

“Now in its 24th year, the Desert Mob exhibition is a world-class event that showcases the unique art and culture we have in Central Australia. The exhibition brings together established and emerging artists from across Central Australia to showcase their works to a wide audience.

“The Country Liberals Government understands the important role Indigenous art plays as a major tourism drawcard, particularly here in the Centre, and in addition to annual funding of $170,000 to Desart, we provided additional funding of $29,000 in 2014 towards the Desert Mob Exhibition and Marketplace showcase.

“This funding will ensure Desert Mob continues to grow in profile and remains a key event on our growing FestivalsNT calendar for both locals and visitors to enjoy.”

Desert Mob brings together Desart (the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres) member art centres in a unique exhibition that celebrates Aboriginal art from the region.

The exhibition includes paintings, limited edition prints, photography, ceramics and sculpture in a variety of forms using materials including wood, fibre, metal and native grasses. It features Aboriginal artists from the APY Lands of South Australia, up to Lajamanu in the Territory and out to the Gibson Desert in Western Australia.

The exhibition will be opened by guest speaker Hetti Perkins, curator, writer and host of the Art + Soul television program recently broadcast within Australia. Desert Mob also includes a Symposium and Marketplace, which allow artists to engage directly with the public.

“Desert Mob is a one-of-a-kind event and one of Australia’s premier art shows. I encourage all locals and visitors to attend and see firsthand some of the best contemporary Aboriginal art in the country as well as unique traditional stories from our remote communities,” Mr Conlan said.
The Desert Mob art exhibition opens at the Araluen Art Centre on Thursday 4 September with the Symposium to be held on Friday 5 September and Marketplace on Saturday 6 September. All artworks on display are available for purchase. The exhibition will be run from 5 September until 19 October and will also be viewable online from Monday 8 September at: www.desart.com.au.

Desert Mob 2014 will also celebrate the 21st anniversary of Desart Inc. the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres.

Attached photo: Desert Mob 2013 exhibition opening. Photo by Lisa Hatzimihail Photography

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