Call for entries for Australia’s most prestigious Indigenous art award

17 February 2015

Australia’s longest running and most prestigious Indigenous art award is open for business.

Entries are being called for the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA) which is now in its 32nd year.

Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins said the Award aims to recognise the important contribution made by Indigenous artists.

“It also promotes appreciation and understanding of the quality and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art from artists throughout Australia,” Minister Higgins said.

“The Northern Territory Government is proud of its long standing partnership with Telstra in supporting and celebrating Indigenous artists, many from our remote communities, through the Award. Hundreds of entries are received each year and past winners have gone on to exhibit nationally and internationally.

“As the Member for Daly I was extra proud when Kieren Karritpul was named the inaugural winner of the Telstra Youth Award category last year.

“Kieren is from Daly River and he won for his work Yerrgi which is a great silkscreen print on linen.”

Telstra Area General Manager for the Northern Territory Nic Danks said this is one of Telstra’s most significant sponsorships.

“2015 marks the 24th year Telstra has supported the NATSIAA and we are proud to have helped provide a national platform for emerging and established artists to be able to showcase their culture and creative talents,” said Mr Danks.

The first prize $50,000 Telstra Award is non-acquisitive and awarded to the most outstanding work in the exhibition.

The five other categories (worth $5000 each) are: the Telstra General Paining Award, Telstra Bark Painting Award, Telstra Works on Paper Award, Telstra Youth Award and the Wandjuk Marika Memorial Three-Dimensional Award.
“Each year the exhibition’s opening night is a highlight of the Festivals NT calendar with performances from Indigenous traditional and contemporary musicians and dance groups as well as the announcement of the winners,” Mr Higgins said.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the exhibition in August and encourage all Territory Indigenous artists to enter the Awards this year.”

Indigenous artists keen and eligible to enter this year’s Telstra Art Award are urged to contact the Exhibition Coordinator at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory by phone 08 8999 8287, email natsiaa@nt.gov.au, or visit www.nt.gov.au/natsiaa and submit their entry before the 20 March 2015 deadline.

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