Time to enter the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA)

23 February 2016

Australia’s longest running and most prestigious Indigenous art award – the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award or NATSIAA – is now open for entries.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the program’s partnership between Telstra and the Museum and Art Gallery of NT (MAGNT) and the award continues to promote an appreciation and understanding of the quality and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

“This is a wonderful Award which has given Australia some of the most fantastic Indigenous art works and recognised the important and incomparable contribution made by Indigenous artists across the country,” Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins said.

“And again the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and Telstra have demonstrated their strong partnership in implementing the Award. The Northern Territory Government is proud to support and celebrate Indigenous artists with the MAGNT and Telstra.

“Year after year we’ve seen stunning artworks and ever year the Award receives hundreds of entries from throughout the nation.”

Telstra CEO Andrew Penn said the Awards continue to unearth new talents that surprise us in new ways.

“We are incredibly proud of our long-standing partnership with the Telstra NATSIAA’s,” said Mr Penn.

“The Awards create a diverse network of artistic connection and provide a place where talented Indigenous artists from around the country come to be discovered and celebrated.”

MAGNT director Marcus Schutenko said the Award gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art a much deserved national profile.

“We are proud to again be partnering with Telstra for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award – an award which has the prestige and prominence to propel entrants into national and international exposure,” Mr Schutenko said.
“Many past entrants and winners have gone on to exhibit widely across the nation and overseas. The Award is a great platform for emerging and established artists and every year the MAGNT has been honoured to be the exhibition home of such wonderful works.”

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 Painting Award, Telstra Bark Painting Award, Telstra Works on Paper Award, Telstra Youth Award and the Wandjuk Marika Memorial Three-Dimensional Award (also sponsored by Telstra).

Entries close on Friday 1 April with finalists announced on Friday 29 April and winners revealed at the exhibition’s opening night on Friday 5 August.

To enter 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.magnt.net.au.

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