EXIT ART 2004 EXHIBITION OPENS

Artwork from 2004’s Year 12 graduates is being showcased at the annual Exit Art Exhibition, officially opened this afternoon by Chief Minister Clare Martin.

On display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory for the first time in its 11-year history, Exit Art unearths the outstanding talent and vision of young Territory artists.

“Exit Art is not only a showcase of students’ talent, it is also a glimpse at the concerns, passions, intelligence and humour driving our young people,” Ms Martin said.

“Displaying the exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery gives it the profile and recognition that it deserves - art is an important part of our great lifestyle and it’s exciting to see our depth of talent.”

Also at today’s opening, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling presented the Minister’s Acquisition Award and a $500 cheque to Rebecca Nelson. Rebecca, a Nhulunbuy High student last year, studied visual arts via the NT Open Education Centre.

Her textile fabric piece ‘Breaking Ties’ explores friendships, separation and isolation, influenced by her move to the Territory. It will be on display in Mr Stirling’s office over the coming year.

“I picked this piece because of its Territory flavour and the way Rebecca has visualised the effects of time and distance on the bonds of friendship,” Mr Stirling.

“I would urge everyone to make the effort to see this exhibition, which is a tribute to the young artists themselves and the teachers who have guided and influenced them throughout their school arts studies.

“Thanks also to exhibition sponsor, Woodside, for their commitment to nurturing young talent.”

Woodside Energy Excellence Awards were presented to students who attained a perfect score for the practical component of their visual arts subject last year. The recipients were Lulu Fogg for Design Practical and Art Practical (2 awards); Jade Gunstone for Craft Practical; and Cimarra Oates for Art Practical.

The People’s Choice award, which encourages community involvement, will be held again. All visitors to the exhibition will be encouraged to nominate their favourite piece of artwork. The artist with the most nominations will receive a $100 gift voucher from Jackson Drawing Supplies of Parap.

The exhibition is free and open to the public from 4 March to 25 April.

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