Chief Minister Congratulates Telstra Art Award Winners

Chief Minister Clare Martin has congratulated the five winners of this year's 24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Ms Martin officially opened the Telstra Art Award at a gala ceremony at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin.

- **The $40,000 Telstra Award**, was awarded to Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona for his work *Ubirikubiri*.
- **The $4,000 Telstra General Painting Award**, was awarded to Northern Territory-based artist Angelina George for her work *Near Ruined City*.
- **The $4,000 Telstra Bark Painting Award** was awarded to Margaret Rarru Garrawurra from Arnhem Land for her work *Ngarra Body Paint Design*.
- **The $4,000 Telstra Works on Paper**, was awarded to Alick Tipoti from the Torres Strait Islands for his work *Gubau Aima Mabaigal*.
- **The $4,000 Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award**, sponsored by Telstra was awarded to Laurie Nilsen from Queensland for his work *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*.

“The calibre of this year's entries and the winning works was truly outstanding,” Ms Martin said.

“Many Territorians love crocodiles so they will agree with Award judges Fiona Foley and Djon Mundine OAM that Dennis Nona’s *Ubirikubiri* deserved the $40,000 Telstra Award for its unique aesthetic qualities and ability to tell a story important to the artist.”

*Ubirikubiri* is a cast bronze structure of a 3.5m crocodile that depicts the story of a legend that took place on the Mai Kusa (River) on the western coast of Papua New Guinea.

Dennis Nona was born on Badu Island in 1973 and is widely recognised as one of Australia’s most important Torres Strait Islander artists, with his work featuring in the collections of most major Australian art institutions and in several important overseas collections.

Ms Martin said the Telstra Art Award was simply not about competition but also a celebration of Indigenous art and culture.

“The 24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award allows people to focus on what is great about Indigenous Australians,” Ms Martin said.
“All the artworks on display tell stories quite personal to the artists who created them and the fact the Telstra Art Award is non-acquisitive allows artists to be more ambitious with the works they submit for inclusion as part of the exhibition.”

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