



5 November 2009

Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards Update

2009 People's Choice Winner is Shane Pickett 2010 Nomination Process is now open

Shane Pickett from Quairading [Balladong Country], WA, has again won the *People's Choice Award* of \$5,000 in the *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2009*.

For the second year in a row, members of the public have recognised the talent of Shane Pickett in his group of artworks displayed in the awards exhibition. Visitors have responded to the confident sweeping gestures of Pickett's hand on the canvas and his ability to depict via abstraction the subject of the six Nyoongar seasons, a subject about which Pickett is intimately knowledgeable.

Over 1,800 votes were cast, many more than last year, confirming the growing popularity of the exhibition. In a close run race Shane Pickett received the highest number of votes, with Lorraine Connelly-Northey and Dennis Nona receiving second and third place respectively. All three artists received well in excess of 200 votes each, with Shane Pickett edging the other two by a mere 36 and 42 votes respectively.

The *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards*, Australia's richest contemporary Indigenous art award, was founded in 2008 to celebrate the diversity and richness of Indigenous art from across the country. In its first two years, the award has gone from strength to strength, with 400 nominations received from arts organisations nationally.

The awards comprise a group exhibition of outstanding art and three non-acquisitive awards:

- The *Western Australian Indigenous Art Award* of \$50,000 – this was won in 2008 by Patrick Tjungurrayi and in 2009 by Ricardo Idagi.
- The *Western Australian Artist Award* of \$10,000 – this was won in 2008 by June Walkutjukurr Richards and in 2009 by Wakartu Cory Surprise.
- The *People's Choice Award* of \$5,000 – this was won in 2008 and 2009 by Shane Pickett.



Shane Pickett

Medicine grounds that become ready during Bunuroo 2008

acrylic on linen

183 x 153 cm

Artwork courtesy Mossenson Galleries

Image © the artist, courtesy Mossenson Galleries

Following the success of the first two *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards*, the Gallery is pleased to launch the nomination process for the *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2010*. These national awards are open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists residing in Australia.

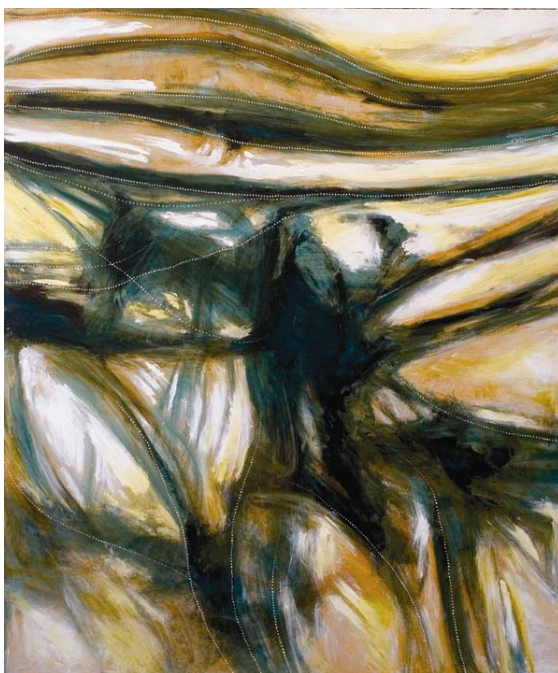
Nominations will be accepted for works by Indigenous artists, 18 years or older, made since 1 November 2007. Artists working in any theme or media including (but not restricted to) paintings on bark, canvas and paper, prints, sculpture, fibre art, ceramics, glass, photography, and digital media can be nominated. The closing date for nominations is Monday 22 February, 2010. Nomination forms can be downloaded from: artgallery.wa.gov.au

Stefano Carboni, Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, said, "Many congratulations to Shane on his second *People's Choice Award* win. I am delighted that the State Government has announced that the Gallery will again be hosting the awards in 2010, and biennially thereafter. The Gallery is grateful for the commitment from the Indigenous arts community to these awards, and looks forward to their continued support for this Western Australian initiative.

"I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to see the selection of outstanding works in the 2009 *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards* exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, which closes on Sunday 15 November," Dr Carboni said.

The awards and exhibition are supported by the Government of Western Australia through the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Open 10am-5pm Wednesday - Monday



Shane Pickett
Morning cold and the waterhole cool 2008
acrylic on linen
183 x 153 cm
Artwork courtesy Mossenson Galleries
Image © the artist, courtesy Mossenson Galleries

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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