



Art Gallery
of Western Australia

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Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 16 Exhibiting Artists Announced

The sixteen artists selected from the 157 nominations received for the inaugural Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards have been announced. They are: Jean Baptiste Apuatimi, Daniel Boyd, Fiona Foley, Jenny Fraser, Sally Gabori, Gordon Hookey, Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, Patrick Mung Mung, Naata Nungurrayi, Josie Kunoth Petyarre, Shane Pickett, June Richards, Muni (Rita) Simpson, Spinifex Artists Group (Byron Brookes, Fred Grant, Ned Grant, Simon Hogan, Ian Rictor, Roy Underwood and Lennard Walker), Alick Tipoti, and Patrick Tjungurrayi.

Aboriginal curator Djon Mundine OAM, and esteemed art historian Ian McLean were joined by Chief Curator and Deputy Director Gary Dufour, and the Curator of Indigenous Art Carly Lane, from the Art Gallery of Western Australia, on the selection panel. They selected sixteen artists from across Australia for inclusion in the inaugural Awards.

The panel met at the Art Gallery of Western Australia to narrow the field. This was followed by the Curator of Indigenous Art travelling to various locations in Australia to select works for the Awards exhibition which opens on 1 November 2008.

The exhibition will showcase outstanding works by the sixteen selected Indigenous artists from across the nation. Each of the artists will bring a unique vision to the Awards and, placed together, their work will reveal the dominant and emerging mediums, subjects and experiences shaping contemporary Indigenous art today.

Each artist will be in the running to receive the richest Indigenous art award in Australia, the non-acquisitive Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, which is valued at \$50,000. One Western Australian artist will also be awarded the WA artist award of \$10,000. The \$5,000 People's Choice Award will be given to an artist in the Awards exhibition whose work receives the highest number of visitor votes.

This newly established national award celebrates the diversity and richness of Indigenous art from across the country. The Awards acknowledges the significant contribution Indigenous artists make to Australia. Presented annually, they are set to become a premiere event in the national Indigenous arts calendar. The main award of \$50,000 is the most generous of Indigenous art awards in Australia.

The Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards will be on display 1 November 2008 – 11 January 2009 at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Centre.

The Awards and exhibition are supported by the Department of Culture and the Arts, Government of Western Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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