



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

## **Minister for Culture and the Arts**

12/5/09

### **Media Statement**

#### **Finalists for the 2009 WA Indigenous Art Awards announced.**

Finalists for Australia's richest indigenous contemporary art awards have been announced by Culture and the Arts Minister John Day.

Mr Day congratulated the 15 artists and one artists' group who have been selected as the finalists for this year's Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards exhibition.

"In its second year, this award has gone from strength to strength, with 213 nominations received from arts organisations nationally. This is a significant increase on the 157 nominations submitted for the inaugural awards," he said.

"I am proud to highlight that of the selected finalists, seven artists and the artists' group are from Western Australia, illustrating the high standard of work being produced by WA artists."

Indigenous artists were nominated by their peers for these prestigious awards, which were founded in 2008.

The selection panel consists of Keith Munro, curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Sydney; Judith Ryan, senior curator of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Victoria; Clotilde Bullen, curator of Indigenous Art; and Dr Stefano Carboni, director, Art Gallery of Western Australia.

The awards comprise a group exhibition of outstanding art and three non-acquisitive awards totalling \$65,000: the Western Australian Indigenous Art Award of \$50,000; the Western Australian Artist Award of \$10,000; and the People's Choice Award of \$5,000.

The \$50,000 Western Australian Indigenous Art Award will be awarded to the artist whose work in the awards exhibition is considered by the selection panel to be the most outstanding.

The \$50,000 award winner and \$10,000 recipient will be announced at the opening event on Friday July 24, 2009.

The People's Choice Award of \$5,000 will be presented at the end of the exhibition season to the finalist who receives the highest number of visitor votes.

The exhibition will be displayed at the Art Gallery of Western Australia from July 25, 2009. Entry to the exhibition is free.

The 15 artists and one artists' group selected to exhibit in the Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2009 are:

**Tony Albert** (born 1981 Townsville QLD, lives Brisbane QLD)

**Lorraine Connelly-Northey** (born 1962 Swan Hill VIC, lives Swan Hill VIC)

**Timothy Cook** (born 1958 Goose Creek, Milikapiti, lives Melville Island NT)

**Nici Cumpston** (born 1963 Adelaide SA, lives Adelaide SA)

**Gali Yalkarriwuy Gurruwiwi** (born c1942 Milingimbi NT, lives Elcho Island NT)

**Ricardo Idagi** (born 1957 Thursday Island, Torres Strait, lives Mer Island [Murray Island], Torres Strait and Melbourne VIC)

**Brian McKinnon** (born 1957 Geraldton WA, lives Geelong VIC)

**Doreen Reid Nakamarra** (born c1955 Warburton WA, lives Kiwirrkura WA)

**Yinarupa Nangala** (born c 1961 Kiwirrkura region, lives Kiwirrkura WA)

**Dennis Nona** (born 1973 Badu Island, Torres Strait, lives Brisbane QLD)

**Tiger Palpatja** (born c1920 place unknown, lives Amata Community SA)

**Christopher Pease** (born 1969 Perth WA, lives Perth WA)

**Shane Pickett** (born 1957 Quairading [Ballardung Country] WA, lives Perth WA)

**Spinifex Artists Group - Women's Collaborative** (Tjuntjuntjara community WA, Great Victoria Desert)

**Wakartu Cory Surprise** (born 1929 Great Sandy Desert, lives Fitzroy Crossing WA)

**Daniel Walbidi** (born 1983 Broome WA, lives Bidyadanga WA)

Additional information on selection panel members is available on request.

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