



Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2011

The *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards*, the richest Indigenous arts prize in the country, is a national award founded in 2008 to celebrate the breadth, diversity and excellence of art from all corners of Indigenous Australia. The awards acknowledge the significant and ongoing contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists make to Australian art, culture and society.

16 finalists will be represented in the *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2011*. The artists who have been invited to participate in the awards exhibition have the opportunity to share in \$65,000 in prizes. 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 winner of this award and the \$10,000 recipient will be announced at the opening event on August 12. The People's Choice Award of \$5,000 will be presented at the end of the exhibition season to the artist who receives the highest number of visitor votes.

The selection panel for the *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2011* consisted of two Indigenous curators: Tina Baum, and Glenn Iseger-Pilkington, a curator of contemporary Australian art, Robert Cook and author and anthropologist, Professor Howard Morphy, each with nationally-acknowledged expertise and knowledge within the Australian arts sector.

Glenn Iseger-Pilkington states that, "Once again the *Western Australia Indigenous Art Awards* highlights the rich diversity of Indigenous creative practices across the country. It was an incredible experience to travel and meet with artists all around Australia in preparation for the Awards. The Awards features an exceptional selection of works of art that express, depict and celebrate culture, identity and lived experience in distinctive and fascinating ways".



Painting by the 2010 Winner of the
Western Australian Indigenous Art Award

Wakartu Cory Surprise

Bimarral Jila 2009

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

178.3 x 237.2 cm

Artwork courtesy of the Hassall Collection, Sydney

Image © Wakartu Cory Surprise, courtesy of Mangkaja Arts, Fitzroy Crossing

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The 16 artists selected to exhibit are:

NAME	LIVES	LANGUAGE GROUP
Jan Billycan	WA	Yulparija
Michael Cook	QLD	Bidjara
Timothy Cook	NT	Tiwi
Angkaliya Curtis	SA	Pitjantjatjara
Gunybi Ganambarr	NT	Ngaymil
Angelina George	NT	Yugul Mangi
Gary Lee	ACT	Larrakia/Karajarri/Wadaman
Danie Mellor	ACT	Mamu/Ngagen/Ngajan
Patrick Mung Mung	WA	Gija
Trevor Nickolls	SA	Ngarrindjeri
Lena Nyadbi	WA	Gija
Tiger Palpatja	SA	Pitjantjatjara
Kuruwariyingathi Bijarrb Paula Paul	QLD	Kayardild
Reko Rennie	VIC	Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi
Nyilyari Tjapangati	NT	Pintupi
Nyapanyapa Yunupingu	NT	Gumatj

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

The *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2011* are on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia from Saturday 13 August – Monday 19 December 2011.

See our website for more information: artgallery.wa.gov.au



**Painting by the 2010 Winner of the
*Western Australian Indigenous Artist Award***

Sonia Kurarra

Martuwarra 2009

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

119 x 119 cm

Artwork courtesy of a private collection

Image © Sonia Kurarra, courtesy Mangkaja Arts, Fitzroy Crossing

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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