

TELSTRA NATSIAA

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL &
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
ART AWARDS

MUSEUM
AND ART
GALLERY
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

Principal Partner



1 August 2019

Celebrate the best of Indigenous art and culture with Telstra and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

Locals and visitors alike are warmly invited to join Telstra and MAGNT to celebrate the effervescent *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA)* Opening Night on **Friday 9 August at 6pm.**

Come and experience the highly anticipated annual cultural event on everyone's social calendar. *Telstra NATSIAA* showcases a vibrant open air festival ambience. Visitors can enjoy a dynamic range of high-quality live music and dance performances on MAGNT's tropical lawns, setting the scene for an unforgettable evening.

Six *Telstra NATSIAA* category winners will be announced over the course of the evening, in addition to the overall winner. Following the Awards Ceremony, MAGNT will open the 2019 *Telstra NATSIAA* exhibition doors to the public revealing this year's 68 exceptional finalist works.

"We are thrilled to continue sharing the *Telstra NATSIAA* event with high-energy acts for everyone to enjoy. MAGNT is proud to honour the talented finalist artists and winners from across Australia with this celebration in collaboration with Telstra," said MAGNT Director Marcus Schutenko.

This year, *Telstra NATSIAA* coincides with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

"The Awards Ceremony and Opening Night is a testament to the rich and diverse culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups from across Australia coming together to share art, music and heritage. Cultural storytelling is imparted through a variety of forms and genres with poignant messaging for all audiences to embrace," said Mr Schutenko.

Renowned Indigenous comedian Sean Choolburra is the Master of Ceremony and Larrakia Custodian Tony Dhuwan Lee will present a Welcome to Country to commence this captivating evening. Creative Director Rhoda Roberts has curated a captivating lineup of quality acts including Mojo Juju, Electric Fields, Djuki Mala and Albert David.

Genelle Sharples, Media and Sponsorships Principal at Telstra, said, "We're so proud to celebrate the diverse practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The *Telstra NATSIAA* perennially unearths new artistic talent from across Australia and shines a light on some of the most important developments in contemporary Indigenous art."

Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic or enjoy food available for purchase from the market-style vendors on site. A licensed paid bar will also be available.

Minister for Tourism Sport and Culture The Honourable Lauren Moss said:

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists contribute to the sharing and maintenance of culture and knowledge as well as income and job creation in communities through creativity, talent and skill. The Northern Territory recognises the importance of our imaginative and innovative creative economy which also contributes to social inclusion, and celebrates cultural diversity. Congratulations to all of this year's NATSIAA finalists and winners."

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About the Awards

The *Telstra NATSIAAs* are Australia's longest running and most prestigious Indigenous art prize. This year Telstra NATSIAA attracted entries from every state and territory in Australia: from 280 entries, 68 works have been selected for display in the 2019 exhibition.

The Telstra Art Award of \$50,000 is awarded to the work considered by judges to be the most outstanding work across all categories.

Prizes of \$5,000 each are awarded in each of the following categories:

- Telstra Bark Painting Award
- Telstra General Painting Award
- Telstra Works on Paper Award (includes photography, print making, drawing)
- Wandjuk Marika Memorial Three-Dimensional Award (sponsored by Telstra)
- Telstra Multimedia Award (for multi-disciplinary and digital works)
- The Telstra Emerging Artist Award (awarded from any category to an artist working within their first five years of practice who has not exhibited in a major institution).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists were invited to submit one original work that has not been previously exhibited or made available for sale. All awards are non-acquisitive and entrants are eligible to win one award.

Learn more at magnt.net.au/natsiaa and magnt.net.au/media

- ENDS -

Available for interviews:

- Marcus Schutenko, Director, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
- Luke Scholes, Curator of Aboriginal Art, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
- Genelle Sharples, General Manager Media and Sponsorships, Telstra

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