

Central Australian Student Artist Winner of Minister's Choice Award

3 February 2022

Mirikai Peters, Visual Arts student from Centralian Senior College was announced as the 2022 Minister's Choice Award winner with *Red Rock*, a large painting on canvas.

The Mparntwe/Alice Springs artist is one of 50 talented finalists from 11 schools across the Northern Territory selected in the annual *Exit Art* student exhibition held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

The Visual Arts student is a passionate muralist, and aspires to become an art teacher one day.

Mirikai Peters said:

"I love the nature, wildlife and landscapes all around the town, just growing up around it was really inspiring, and so I wanted to paint it. My grandma painted landscape paintings so I was really making her proud too by painting this. She was a big inspiration in my life."

Red Rock took around 75 hours to produce. The artwork is one of three Central Australian works who are award winners in this year's *Exit Art*.

Category Winners

Elena Baxter | Good Shepherd Lutheran College
Jackson's Drawing Supplies Award Winner

Cheyene Lewis | Centralian Senior College
Tactile Arts Award Winner

Shanice Bayizere | Darwin High School
Art Educators of the NT Award Winner

Danae Moore | Centralian Senior College
Darwin Visual Arts Award Winner

Adam Worrall, MAGNT Director:

"Congratulations to Mirikai, the category recipients and to all the students who feature in this exhibition. *Exit Art* is an essential platform enabling students to express themselves. This exhibition allows visitors to delve into what influences young people and the issues they are grappling with today."

Eva Lawler, Minister for Education:

"My choice was based on what appealed to my heart and passion. The exceptional quality of this work is a testament to the hard work of these students and the valuable contributions of our teachers, their families and our wider community in nurturing their artistic talents and creative thinking.

Exit Art showcases contemporary art and design from Northern Territory Year 12 students, presented by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Education.

EXHIBITION DATES

Exit Art opens to the public at MAGNT Darwin on Friday 3 February 2023 **and is free entry.**

-ENDS-

Available for interview:

Adam Worrall – MAGNT Director

Exit Art Winners and Finalists

Media enquiries:

Rebecca Campart – rebecca.campart@magnt.net.au | 08 8999 8203

About MAGNT

Set in a scenic location overlooking Fannie Bay in Darwin, MAGNT is home to internationally renowned artistic, cultural and scientific collections and research programs. Each year MAGNT presents a dynamic program of exhibitions carefully curated from the collection, as well as the best travelling exhibitions from around Australia. It is also the home of the annual Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - the most significant celebration of its kind in Australia. MAGNT is a not-for-profit organisation.