



14 December 2022

## Juanella McKenzie announced as Telstra People's Choice Award Winner

**Juanella McKenzie, from Port Augusta South Australia has been announced as the Telstra People's Choice Award winner, in this year's *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)*, presented by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in partnership with Telstra.**

The *Telstra NATSIAA* is the longest running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art awards in the country. Presented in partnership with Telstra, these art awards are the richest in Australia. This year, 63 finalists from across Australia were selected from a total of 221 entries.

*Hold Me, 2022* created by artist Juanella McKenzie symbolises five generations of women connected through the artist's female line, passed from mother to daughter. The woven carry dish represents McKenzie's great grandmother, grandmother, mother and her daughters.

Juanella McKenzie said:

'It's amazing that this has touched people's lives. It is about bringing honour to the women who come before us, and after us. I am very grateful.'

Each is woven with a cloth or hair belonging to or fibre representing, through time, our DNA intertwined and becoming one.'

Adam Worrall, MAGNT Director said:

'Congratulations to Juanella and we are thrilled people got behind this incredible South Australian artist, who sends a beautiful message about matriarchy, tradition and knowledge sharing in her artwork. It was a privilege to meet Juanella and listen to her artist talk when she visited MAGNT for the *Telstra NATSIAA* opening.'

*Telstra NATSIAA* artists share in a total of \$190,000 (previously \$80,000) with the prize money for the major Telstra Art Award doubling to \$100,000 in 2022 and each of the category awards tripling from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

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### Image credit

Juanella McKenzie, *Hold Me 2022*, emu feathers, recycled material, human hair, waxed hemp thread and fibres, 16 x 41 x 11 cm. Courtesy of the artist.

### Exhibition

Until Sunday 15 January 2023 – 10am to 4pm | Free | Open Daily

Virtual gallery | [natsiaa.com.au](https://natsiaa.com.au)



### Available to Interview

- Adam Worrall | MAGNT Director
- Rebekah Raymond | MAGNT Curator of Aboriginal Art and Material Culture

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### About MAGNT

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) was established in 1981. The Museum is home to internationally renowned artistic, cultural and scientific collections, and research programs. MAGNT currently consists of six permanent and two temporary exhibition spaces. Each year, MAGNT presents a dynamic program of internally developed exhibitions carefully curated from the collection and the best travelling exhibitions from around Australia. It is also the home of the annual *Telstra NATSIAA* - the most significant Indigenous art award of its kind in Australia.