

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, 29 January 2026

## **EXIT ART FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is proud to announce that 59 outstanding young artists have been selected as finalists for the annual *Exit Art* exhibition, celebrating the exceptional creativity of the Northern Territory's 2025 Year 12 students.

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, *Exit Art* continues to provide a significant platform for young people to display their art and design works and share their voices with the broader community.

Presented in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training, the exhibition showcases the creative achievements of Year 12 students, with finalists selected from more than 125 entries.

The finalists' works span a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, film, animation, graphic novella, architecture, fashion and contemporary craft. Together, they explore themes such as connection to place, inherited knowledge and identity, lived experiences of the screen generation, contemplative practices for mental health, and the revival of traditional crafts.

Representing schools in Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, the finalists represent the next generation of aspiring artists poised to enrich the arts and cultural sector with diverse perspectives and creativity.

Visit the full list of finalists at: <https://www.magnt.net.au/exitart>

Winners will be selected from the pool of finalists in the following categories:

- The Minister's Choice Award
- NXT Gen ARTS Grant Award
- Art Educators of the Northern Territory Award
- Australian Teachers of Media NT Award
- MAGNT Foundation Award
- Darwin Visual Arts Award
- Tactile Arts Craft Award
- Darwin Street Art Festival Award
- Jacksons Drawing Award

This year, the Northern Territory Government's support for *Exit Art* has broadened, with the Department of People, Sport and Culture coming onboard to sponsor a new award. One finalist will be selected for a \$13,000 NXT Gen ARTS Grant to develop their artistic practice with industry backing and sector support. The NXT Gen ARTS grant program pairs young creatives with NT arts organisations for work placements that facilitate long term career pathways in the arts and cultural sector.

The winners will be announced on Friday, 13 February 2026, with the exhibition to open to the public on Saturday, 14 February.

Visitors can participate by voting in the People's Choice Award, with the winner to be announced at the close of the exhibition.

**Quote from MAGNT Director Adam Worrall**

"We are excited to showcase the immense creativity of Year 12 art students from across the Territory. Their works explore important themes like culture, heritage and mental health, through a unique and innovative lens.

At MAGNT, we are proud to support these young creatives to exhibit their works and connect with the wider community. *Exit Art* continues to provide an important platform for the next generation of artists and we look forward to seeing the contributions they will make to the Territory's cultural landscape.

Congratulations to all the finalists whose works are featured in *Exit Art*."

**Quote from the Minister for Education and Training, The Honourable Jo Hersey:**

"Our 2025 graduates have excelled through these artworks, showcasing exceptional technical skill and innovative use of materials. It is only fitting that the many hours devoted to these 59 artworks are recognised so prominently.

Students, along with their parents and teachers, should feel extremely proud of their achievements.

The Department of Education and Training is proud to be supporting *Exit Art* with a yearly sponsorship of \$53,000. On behalf of our inspirational art teachers and our aspiring student artists, I extend my sincere thanks to the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory supporting and celebrating the next generation of Territory artists."

**Exhibition dates**

*Exit Art* opens to the public at MAGNT Darwin on Saturday, 14 February 2026 and will be open until 31 May 2026.

The community plays a vital role in supporting these talented students. By attending the exhibition and engaging with their work, audiences validate their efforts and encourage them to continue their creative journeys.

Entry is free.

For public programs and events visit [www.magntr.net.au](http://www.magntr.net.au)

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**Media enquiries**

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**About MAGNT Bullocky Point**

Set in Larrakia Country, 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.