

TELSTRA NATSIAA

2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards

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Media Release

2025 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Finalists Announced

71 finalist works have been announced for this year's 2025 *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Telstra (NATSIAA)*, Australia's longest running and most prestigious art awards of its kind, presented by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and Principal Partner Telstra on Larrakia Country (Darwin).

Now in its 42nd year, the 2025 *Telstra NATSIAA* features Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across Australia, sharing incredible works reflecting the continuation of cultures, responses to current affairs and unerring connections to Country.

Telstra NATSIAA recognises the quality and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art throughout Australia and continues to grow appreciation and understanding of First Peoples arts and cultural practice. *Telstra NATSIAA* has been a career-changer for many of the finalists and award winners since its inception.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have shaped the Awards through their contributions as artists, curators, coordinators, selection panellists and judges.

Selected from 216 entries, all finalist works will be exhibited at MAGNT, Darwin, from 21 June 2025 until 26 January 2026 and are eligible to win one of the following award categories:

- Telstra Art Award - \$100,000
- Telstra General Painting Award - \$15,000
- Telstra Bark Painting Award - \$15,000
- Telstra Work on Paper Award - \$15,000
- Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award (sponsored by Telstra) - \$15,000
- Telstra Emerging Artist Award - \$15,000
- Telstra Multimedia Award - \$15,000

The Telstra People's Choice Award, is a non-monetary award, chosen by popular vote. Members of the public can vote for their favourite work via a QR code for the duration of the exhibition.

Fast facts

There were 216 entries with 71 finalists chosen.

38 finalists are from the Northern Territory, 8 from South Australia, 5 from Queensland, 10 from Western Australia, 3 from New South Wales, 1 from the ACT and 6 artists from Victoria were selected. There are no finalists from Tasmania this year.

14 finalists fall under the Emerging Artist category.



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Quote from MAGNT Director, Adam Worrall.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art is a vital part of the social and cultural life of Australia. This year's *Telstra NATSIAA* presents 71 exceptional works, selected from over 200 entries, providing a snapshot of the finest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art created in the past year.

The continued support of Telstra is essential to ensuring these stories are seen, shared and celebrated."

Quote from Lyndall Stoyles, Group Executive at Telstra

"*Telstra NATSIAA* is the premier platform in Australia for emerging and established First Nations artists to showcase their culture and creative talents. Having been partners for 34 years, it is a privilege to celebrate their incredible talent and share their stories across Australia to help more of us appreciate First Nations art. I congratulate all the finalists, and we look forward to seeing the exhibition open in June on Larrakia Country."

The finalists were selected by a panel consisting of Keith Munro, Karen Mills and Kate ten Buuren.

Quote from the selection panel.

"The Selection Panel members are proud to have played this important role and we extend our deepest gratitude to all artists who submitted their artworks. It was a privilege to witness and discuss hundreds of masterful works that showcase the diverse and abundant creative practices from artists across the continent. We acknowledge all applicants for sharing their stories and art with us.

We were excited to see artists collaborating with one another, experimenting with new mediums and technologies, and sharing stories of contemporary life and issues. We were blown away by the skill of emerging artists, and artists working on bark and paper.

The selected works reflect the diverse practices and experiences of First Peoples today, exemplifying the richness of our stories, technical expertise and innovation in creative practice. We engaged in rigorous conversation, consideration and care when selecting the works, and we congratulate the 71 artists in this year's *Telstra NATSIAA*."

We invite everyone to experience the incredible works on display at the 2025 *Telstra NATSIAA* exhibition, opening 21 June at MAGNT Darwin, before the winners are announced at the awards ceremony on the 8 August.

For those who can't make it to Darwin, the virtual gallery offers a fantastic way to explore the exhibition from anywhere.

Telstra NATSIAA is the longest running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art award in Australia and is a celebration of culture, artistic practice and connection to Country, presented by MAGNT and Principal Partner, Telstra on Larrakia Country.



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2025 Telstra NATSIAA Key Dates

21 June 2025 – 26 January 2026

Awards Ceremony Friday 8 August 2025

For more information please visit: www.magnt.net.au

Finalists

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello OAM

Irrwanyere Arrernte Imarnt / Lower Southern Arrernte. Lives in Canberra

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

New South Wales (NSW)

Gene Kelaher

Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan Pilaarrkiyalu. Lives in Belmore

Telstra General Painting Award

Virginia Keft Muruwari

Muruwari. Lives on Dharawal Country

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Emerging Artist

Wanita Lowe

Dunghutti/Birripi/Wiradjuri. Lives in Wollongong

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Northern Territory (NT)

Adrienne Watson

Kuninjku. Lives in Gunbalanya

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Aileen Napaljarri Long

Warlpiri. Lives in Tennant Creek

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Artists of Ampilatwatja: Alana Ngwarraye Holmes, Colleen Ngwarraye Morton, Dakota Ngwarraye Petrick, Denise Ngwarraye Bonney, Edie Kemarre Holmes, Elizabeth Ngwarraye Bonney, Jacinta Pula Morrison, Jessie Ngwarraye Ross, Julieanne Ngwarraye Morton, Kathleen Nanima Rambler, Kindy Kemarre Ross, Latoya Ngwarraye Petrick, Rosie Kemarre Morton, Sevania Kemarre Bonney Alyawarre/Kayetete. Live in Ampilatwatja
Telstra General Painting Award



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Barbara Puruntatameri

Tiwi. Lives in Milikapiti

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Binygurr Wirrpanda

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Carbiene McDonald Tjangala

Luritja. Lives in Papunya

Telstra General Painting Award

Charmaine Ashley

Wagilag. Lives in Gapuwiyak

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Emerging Artist

Cindy Dixon Mpetyan

Anmatyerre. Lives in Arlparra

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Conway Ginger

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Alice Springs

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Djakaṇu Yunupinju

Miwatj. Lives in Gunyangara

Telstra General Painting Award

Dorothy Warrngarrknga Ganambarr

Djambarrpuynu. Lives in Gapuwiyak

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Doris Bush Nungarrayi

Luritja. Lives in Papunya

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Dulcie Sharpe

Luritja. Lives in Yarrenyty Arltère Town Camp, Alice Springs

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Elizabeth Mbitjana

Anmatyerre. Lives in Arlparra

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist



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Gary Lee

Larrakia. Lives in Darwin

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Gaypalani Wanambi

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala.

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Grace Kemarre Robinya

Western Arrernte, Luritja, Anmatyerre. Lives in Alice Springs

Telstra General Painting Award

Graham Tipungwuti

Tiwi. Lives on Wurrumiyanga (Bathurst Island)

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Gutjarra Yunupingu

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Jeanie Napangardi Lewis

Warlpiri. Lives in Nyirripi.

Telstra General Painting Award

Johnathon World Peace Bush

Tiwi. Lives in Milikapiti

Telstra Multimedia Award

Kaye Brown

Tiwi. Lives in Milikapiti

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Kenan Namunjdja

Kuninju. Lives in Maningrida

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Lucinta Puruntatameri

Tiwi. Lives in Pirlangimpi

Telstra General Painting Award

Lucy Yarawanga

Gurr-goni. Lives in Maningrida

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Marnyula Mununggurr

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala

Telstra General Painting Award



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Mervyn Rubuntja

Arrernte / Western Arranda. Lives in Alice Springs

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Ned Kelly Jungurrayi

Kaytetye/Warlpiri. Lives in Ali Curung

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Obed Namirrkki

Kuninju. Lives in Maningrida

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Owen Yalandja

Kuninju. Lives in Maningrida

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Pedro Wonaeamirri

Tiwi. Lives in Milikapiti

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Roger Yambeing

Malak Malak / Wangi Wumirri. Lives in Darwin

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Sheree Inkamala

Luritja / Pitjantjatjara / Western Arrernte. Lives in Yarrenyty Arltene Town Camp, Alice Springs

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Emerging Artist

Sonia Gurrapulan Guyula

Djambarrpuyngu. Lives in Dhondji Homeland

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Emerging Artist

Wally Wilfred

Wagilak. Lives in Ngukurr

Telstra General Painting Award

Wayilkpa Maymuru

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Yalmakany Marawili

Miwatj. Lives in Yirrkala

Telstra Bark Painting Award



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Yinimala Gumana

Miwatji. Lives in Gangan

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Queensland (QLD)

Alick Tipoti

Kala Lagaw Ya. Lives on Badu Island, Torres Strait

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Colina Wymarra

Gudang Yadhaykenu / Dauareb. Lives in Seisia

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Elisa Jane Carmichael

Ngugi. Lives in Brisbane

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Lisa Michl Ko-manggén OAM

Pala Nganduw Kedew. Lives in Cairns

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Naomi Hobson

Southern Kaantju. Lives in Coen, Cape York

Telstra Work on Paper Award

South Australia (SA)

Alec Baker and Eric Barney

Yankuntjatjara. Lives in Indulkana

Telstra General Painting Award

Derek Jungarrayi Thompson

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Pukatja (Ernabella)

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

George Cooley

Arnhem Land Bor. Lives in Coober Pedy

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Iluwanti Ken

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Amata

Telstra General Painting Award



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Josina Nyarpingku Pumani

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Adelaide

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Emerging Artist

Juanella Donovan nee McKenzie

Adnyamathanha / Luritja / Lower Southern Arrernte. Lives in Port Augusta

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Ken Sisters Collaborative - Tjungkara Ken, Yaritji Young, Freda Brady, Maringka Tunkin, Tanya Brady, Sandra Ken

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Amata

Telstra General Painting Award

Naomi Kantjuriny

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Amata

Telstra General Painting Award

Victoria (VIC)

Cassie Leatham

DjaDja Wurrung / Daungwurrung. Lives in Boisdale

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Jack Anselmi

Yorta Yorta. Lives in Mooroopna

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Jahkarli Felicitas Romanis

Pitta Pitta. Lives in Melbourne

Telstra Multimedia Award

Kent Morris

Barkindji. Lives in Melbourne

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Nicholas Hovington

Palawa. Lives in Melbourne

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Norm Yakaduna Stewart

Yorta Yorta (Kwat Kwat, Moira, Wurundjeri). Lives in Barmah Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Western Australia (WA)

Allery Sandy

Yindjibarndi. Lives in Roebourne



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Angelina Karadada Boona

Worrora / Wunambal. Lives in Kalumburu

Telstra Bark Painting Award

Brett Nannup

Noongar. Lives in Perth

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Daniel Walbidi

Yulparitja/Mangala. Lives in Bidyadanga

Telstra General Painting Award

Darryl Dempster

Noongar. Lives in Perth

Telstra General Painting Award

Emerging Artist

Jimmy Tjapangarti Tchooga

Warlpiri/Ngarti. Lives in Balgo

Telstra Work on Paper Award

Marlene Anderson

Manyjilyjarra. Lives in Newman

Telstra General Painting Award

Ned Grant

Pitjantjatjara. Lives in Tjuntjuntjara

Telstra General Painting Award

Wendy Hubert

Yindjibarndi. Lives in Roebourne

Telstra General Painting Award

Mildred Mungulu and Barbara Bear Arndie

Worrora/Wunambal, Ngarinyin. Lives in Mowanjumb

Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award (Sponsored by Telstra)

Available to Interview

Adam Worrall | MAGNT Director

Kate ten Buuren | 2025 Telstra NATSIAA Curator

Media Contact

Ali Copley | MAGNT Communications | alison.copley@magnt.net.au 0438 111 343

Gabrielle Wilson | The Press Society | gabrielle@thepresssociety.com.au 0433 972 915



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