



desart

Culture First.
Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

*Aboriginal people are advised that this report may contain
names of people who have passed on.*

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Cover image:
Nguru Yurntumu-wana (Country around Yuendumu)
Clarise Nampijinpa Poulson
Synthetic Polymer on Linen
122.5 x 122.5 cm
2023
Warlukurlangu Artists

This painting depicts the natural landscape around Yuendumu. The bush around Yuendumu features plenty of watiya (trees), marna (grass), kuyu (animals) to hunt, and miyi (edible plants) to gather. There are a number of beautiful natural features close to Yuendumu, including rocky hills, creeks, soakages, and waterholes. There are also a number of small outstations around Yuendumu. These include Yuwali (Bean Tree), Wakurlpa, Purturlu (Mt. Theo), Jirla (Chilla Well), Yarripirlangu, Wayililipa, and many more. There are many sites around Yuendumu that are associated with different Jukurrpa. All the sites around Yuendumu are owned and cared for by different skin subsections and are associated with different Jukurrpa. Some people are kirda (owners) of the Jukurrpa, and others are kurdungurlu (custodians).



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the 2023 Desart Annual Report on behalf of the Desart Executive Committee, Chief Executive Officer and staff.

Our job on the Executive Committee is to talk up strong for Desart, art centres and Aboriginal people's art and culture. We work hard for all the Desart art centres. The most important thing for all Aboriginal art centres is **culture first**. Desart understands this and I feel proud that Desart supports this.

Desart represents 38 art centres located in Central Australia. Art centres are important places for our arts and culture. They are places where we can tell our stories in many ways, including painting, tjampi/weaving, ceramics, punu/wood carving, textiles, photography and film.

Our art centres are places of strong culture where our elders share culture with young people. We share our culture through our art making with others around Australia and the world – this is important for us and our communities.

“For us culture comes first. Our culture is who we are. It came to us from our old people, and we have to carry it on for our young people. It shows us how to live our lives. We express this through our art, how we look after our country and how we teach our young kids.

Our art centres keep our culture strong. They are places that keep our stories strong and safe, for no one to take. They belong to us, Aboriginal people. Art centres are important for us. Art centres are keeping places. Holding the country and storylines.”

Isobel Gorey
Chairperson

DESART EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT MAY 2023.

Art centres provide opportunities for our young people to build their skills as artists but also, art centres provide opportunities to be involved in the management of our art businesses through roles such as art workers and cultural ambassadors. These jobs are very important for the workers, the art centres and our communities. The Desart Executive Committee wants more Aboriginal people working in art centres and doing more art and cultural work in our communities. The Art Worker Program at Desart helps Aboriginal artworkers by giving them training and support for jobs in the art centre and art community.

I want to thank the Desart Executive Committee, the CEO and staff for coming together, sharing ideas, talking up and working hard to help keep our art centres and culture strong for our elders' younger generations and our central Australian communities.

Desart Executive Committee (L-R): June Smith, Sally Butler,
Sonya Murphy, Isobel Nambajimba, Walter Jugadai, Joseph Williams

CEO'S MESSAGE



Desart's' focus on supporting our member art centres remains our core business. While our sector emerged from the challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, Desart continued to focus on supporting our members through a program of activities which supported good business practice, Information Technology (IT) support, professional development activities and to showcase our regions art and culture.

A priority was to restore key events, in particular Desert Mob, the annual Desart Art Centre Conference as well as those support activities requiring travel to our member art centres.

Desart maintained our key partnerships with industry stakeholders, including ArtsLaw who worked closely with Desart to deliver three outreach trips to the Barkly, Central and Western art centre members. Onsite IT Support and EASA continue to be key

organisations we work with to support our service delivery and art centre support activities.

Desart formalised a partnership with the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) to support community consultation and engagement of family members of the late Emily Kam Ngwarrey required for a proposed exhibition to be held at the NGA opening in December 2023.

Desart prioritised our program delivery with much change occurring over the past year within our organisation and the context in which we operate. In this fast-changing operating environment, advocacy for the needs of art centres is critical. Desart contributed to the development of the new national cultural Policy Revive, represents our membership on the Creative Industries Ministerial Advisory Council (NT), the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation and continues to respond to matters arising from national media coverage regarding the APY Collective.

A major challenge post Covid-19 has been the ability to recruit new staff both for Desart and those art centres needing recruitment support. Desart has seen much change in our staffing over the past year. Rebuilding our team is a work in progress and in August 2022 Lara Dykun was appointed into the position of Strong Business Manager enabling Carmel Young to take on the position of Producer – Desert Mob. Two key positions remained vacant at the end of June 2023 including the Corporate Services Manager and the Artworker Program Manager.

In 2022 Desart was supported by the Australian Government to roll out the Digital Label Project to a maximum of fifteen art centres nationally. The new funding was secured following the Digital Label (Pilot) Project Evaluation 2021. Jane Chambers joined Desart in the role of Digital Label Project Manager. This addition to our staffing has enabled Bronwyn Taylor (SAM Platform Manager) to focus on maintaining the delivery of the SAM Platform to over 100 art centres across the country whilst simultaneously implementing the rebuild of the SAM Platform. The rebuild of the SAM Platform is a high priority for Desart given its critical importance as a management tool for art centres nationally. Desart employed Scott Denholm as the SAM Training and Communications Officer in late 2022 to ensure our capacity to maintain effective service delivery to art centres while the rebuild is undertaken.

In 2022 Desart secured full responsibility for the delivery of Desert Mob. The financial support of the Northern Territory Government and the NT Major Events Company (NTMEC) provided the financial resources required to transition the event to Desart, recruit staff and establish internal administrative process required to deliver the Desert Mob 2022. I acknowledge the significant role Carmel Young (Desert Mob Producer) undertook to ensure the successful delivery of Desert Mob 2022. We still have much to do in reinforcing our organisational process to deliver Desert Mob on behalf of Desart member art centres, however, building the expertise, staffing and process required continues to be in competent hands with the appointment of Tim Chatwin, Hetti Perkins, Aspen Beattie and Mel Drew who are now on board to deliver Desert Mob going forward.

Desart could not do the work we do without the support of the Australian Government – IVAIS

Program, the Australia Council for the Arts and the Northern Territory Government who all provide operational and program funding that support our activities. I also acknowledge the support the Australian Executor Trustees and the Ian Potter Foundation provide which supports Desart programs.

In closing, I acknowledge and thank the Desart Chairperson, Executive Committee and staff who work hard to ensure that Desart remains relevant and responsive to the needs and interests of our art centre members.

Philip Watkins

Chief Executive Officer



OUR MISSION, VALUES AND GOALS

OUR MISSION

We are committed to supporting Aboriginal art centres, which provide autonomy, sustained growth and stability for Central Australian Aboriginal communities.

OUR VALUES

Culture first

We see culture as the priority and foundation for all our work.

Diversity

We respect the cultural diversity inherent to Central Australian Aboriginal peoples and their communities.

Autonomy

We support the independence and autonomy of our art centre members.

Ethical

We work in a manner that is ethical and transparent.

Consultation

We ensure our work is based on consultation with Aboriginal artists and art centre staff.

OUR GOALS

One Mob, One Voice

Goal 1: Represent and be a strong voice for art centres.

Strong Business

Goal 2: Promote best practice management of art centres.

Goal 5: Support art centres to acquire and maintain infrastructure and resources.

My Job, My Learning

Goal 3: Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts.

Our Art, Our Culture

Goal 4: Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture.



ABOUT DESART

Desart is the **Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Arts and Craft Centres**, a not-for-profit peak industry body for Aboriginal art and craft centres across Central Australia. Based in Alice Springs, we have been providing advocacy, training and support services for art centres for over 30 years. Established in 1992 and incorporated in 1993, we represent 38 community controlled Aboriginal art centres across a membership area of 1.221 million square, servicing over 8,000 artists from 16 language groups and five diverse regions.

Desart is 100% local and Aboriginal led, governed by a 10-member executive committee elected from our membership base. During 2022-23 we employed 15 staff members.

Desart provides a united voice on behalf of Aboriginal artists and our member art centres, aiming to ensure their recognition and sustainability as a vital cultural, social and economic resource within their communities. Desart helps to support and strengthen art centre business operations, developing and maintaining strong governance, administration and infrastructure.

Our programs are based on the values of culture first, consultation, diversity, autonomy and transparency. Through events like **Desert Mob**, Desart maximises opportunities for our membership to market and promote their art and crafts locally, nationally and internationally, while strengthening their ability to remain autonomous, sustainable Aboriginal businesses.

Desart values collaboration with our membership base and key industry stakeholders. We value our strong relationships with the **Indigenous Art Code, Copyright Agency, Arts Law**, other **Art Centre Peak Bodies**, and national, regional, and state arts agencies. We nurture established and create new partnerships with relevant industry organisations to ensure our and our members' objectives are met.

OUR BOARD

Desart was incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit Aboriginal Association under the Northern Territory Associations Act. Members of Desart are Aboriginal-owned and governed art centres, established as independent corporations and community-based enterprises.

The **Desart Executive Committee** comprises ten Aboriginal members, two from each of the five designated regions, who are elected for 2 years. After this time, positions are declared vacant at the AGM and commence again from the following board meeting.

DESART BOARD 2022-23

REGION	MEMBER	ART CENTRE
Barkly	Sonya Murphy	Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre
	Joseph Williams	Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre
Central Desert	June Smith	Keringke Arts
	Hayley Coulthard	Hermannsburg Potters
Ngaanyatjarra West	Jennifer Mitchell	Papulankutja Artists
	Sally Butler	Tjarlirli Art
North West	Isobel Gorey	Papunya Tjupi Art Centre
	Walter Jugadai	Ikuntji Artists
APY South	<i>Vacant</i>	

OUR STAFF

DESART STAFF 2022-23

NAME	POSITION	TENURE
Philip Watkins	Chief Executive Officer	Aug 2011 – Present
Bronwyn Taylor	SAM Platform Manager	Aug 2015 – Present
Carmel Young	Desert Mob Producer	Aug 2018 – Oct 2022
Eliza Walters	Strong Business Program Officer	Jun 2020 – Dec 2022
Levi McLean	Arlpwe Art Centre Manager	Aug 2021 – Aug 2022
Angie Stahl	General Manager	Feb 2022 – Feb 2023
Tricia Pearce	Governance Support/Project Officer	Apr 2022 – Nov 2022
Aspen Beattie	Administration Officer	July 2022 – Feb 2023
	Desert Mob Assistant Curator	Feb 2023 - Present
Tony Collins	Strong Business Research Officer	July 2022 – Nov 2022
Lara Dykun	Strong Business Program Manager	Aug 2022 - Present
Scott Denholm	SAM Communications & Training Coordinator	Nov 2022 - Present
Tim Chatwin	Desert Mob Producer	Nov 2022 - Present
Mellisa Kramer	Executive Assistant	Jan 2023 - Present
Jane Chambers	Digital Labelling Coordinator	Feb 2023 - Present
Savannah Glynn-Braun	Administration Officer	Feb 2023 – Present

OUR ART CENTRES

2022-23 DESART MEMBERS

APY South

Ernabella Arts
Iwantja Arts and Crafts
Kaltjiti Arts
Maruku Arts and Crafts
Mimili Maku Arts
Ninuku Arts
Tjala Arts
Tjungu Palya Arts
Walkatjara Art Uluru

Barkly

Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre
Artists of Ampilatwatja
Engawala Art Centre
Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre
Utopia Art Centre

Central Desert

Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists
Greenbush Art Group
Hermannsburg Potters
Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre
Keringke Arts
Ltyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre
Papunya Tula Artists
Tangentyere Artists
Tapatjatjaka Art & Craft
Tjanpi Desert Weavers
Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists

North West

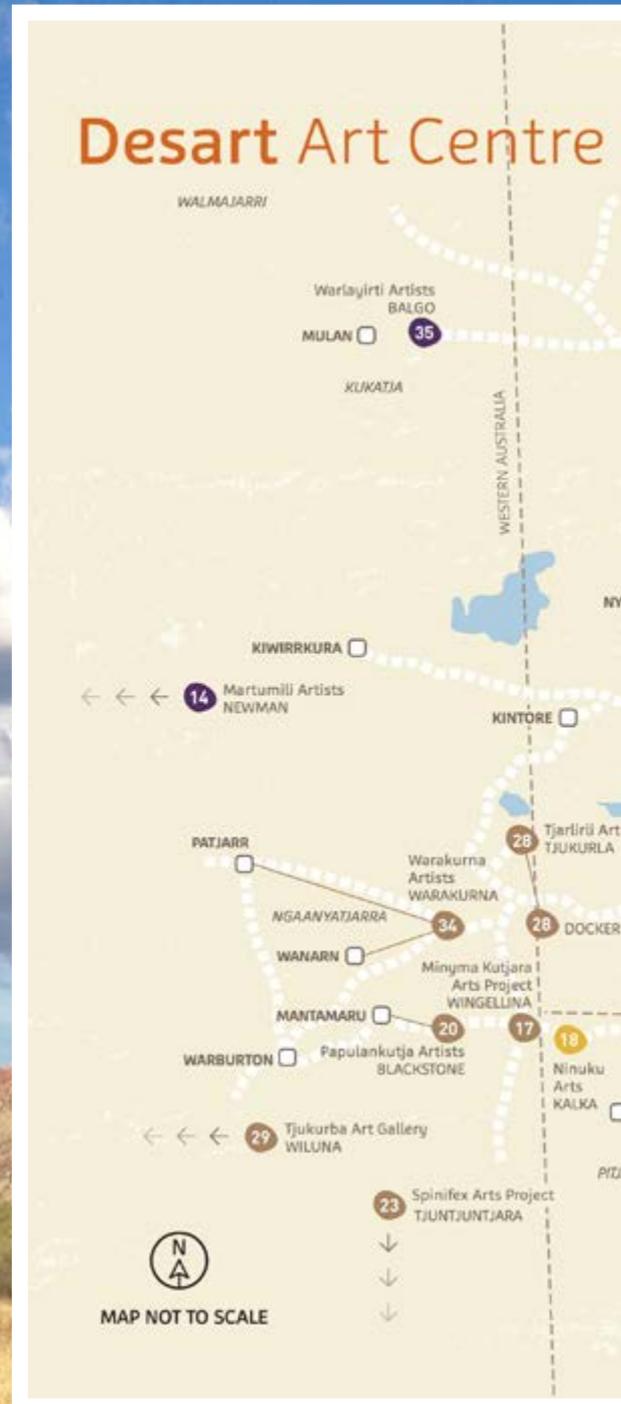
Ikuntji Artists
Martumili Artists
Papunya Tjupi Arts
Warlayirti Artists
Warlukurlangu Artist

Ngaanyatjarra West

Minyma Kutjara Arts Project
Papulankutja Artists
Spinifex Arts Project
Tjarlirli Art
Tjukurba Art Gallery
Warakurna Artists

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Barkly Regional Arts



OUR FUNDING



Australian Government

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

The Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts – Office for the Arts, is Desart’s largest financial supporter. Their enduring confidence in Desart’s ability to not only deliver programs to our membership, but also programs on the National landscape. Our **Operational** funds enable a strong core staff, to deliver our annual program; **SAM Management** funds have enabled the program to set its sights on the redesign of the database; **SAM Rebuild** funds are well on their way to have a revitalized database to meet the needs of the growing National industry; and the **Digital Labelling** is moving forward from their trial phase, to roll out a National program.



The Australia Council for the Arts **Four Year’s Funding** continues to be the stabilizing force that ensures Desart’s annual program of activities is fully funded and delivering the needs of the membership. This program ensures that Desart is focused on the programs themselves, rather than searching down funds to facilitate them.



The Northern Territory Government supported Desart via several departments – Arts NT, Northern Territory Major Events Company and the Community Benefit Fund – funding both operational and Desart’s key annual event, Desert Mob. Arts NT remains a strong supporter of Desart with multi-year **Leading Arts Organisation** funding for key administrative and governance tasks, **Desert Mob** multi-year funded through First Nations Capacity Building and Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy. NTMEC and the Community Benefit fund are new supporters of Desert Mob in 2023, with Community Benefit Fund extending multi-year funding; aiding Desart enact the vision set out in the Desert Mob Strategic Plan 22-25.



The Ian Potter Foundation is Desart's newest philanthropic supporter. Providing funding for the Curatorial Development program, a program that runs throughout the year complementing the Desert Mob program of events. This program is multi-year, 2023-2025.



The support of **Australian Executor Trustees** for Desart's Art Worker program has ensured that even through the tough times of Covid the Art Worker Program was able to deliver much needed support to Art centres.



The National Gallery of Australia in partnership with Desart worked together to showcase the output and legacy of Emily Kam Kngwarrey, through community led initiatives that supports the exhibition of the artist's work. Desart has provided logistical support to NGA staff and auspiced funding to support artworkers from the Utopia Art Centre engagement with the exhibition. The Emily Kam Kngwarrey exhibition will open at the National Gallery of Australia in December 2024.



OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

The Desart program of activities is based on the principles of capacity-building, best practice business models, leadership and good governance across the three tiers of art centre operations – directors, art centre staff and artists. These principles are put into practice through the provision of professional development opportunities, coordinated workshops with professional facilitators, building networks, support and mentoring. In consultation with Desart members, the content of the Desart program is based on research, review, inquiry and industry best practice. Desart's annual program of activities is guided by the desired outcomes of the continuing Desart Business & Strategic Plans 2021–2025.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: REPRESENT AND BE A STRONG VOICE FOR ART CENTRES

ADVOCACY

Desart continues to represent art centres' and our sector in industry forums including having representation on the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation (DAAFF) and the Northern Territory - Creative Industries Ministerial Advisory Council (CIMIC).

RESEARCH

Desart continued to work with de-identified SAM data to develop reports that benefit art centres and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry. This included producing the *Financial Snapshot for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres FYE21* that provides an overview of the sales and production trends within our sector.

desart.com.au/publication/a-financial-snapshot-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-art-centres-fye-2021

We also completed the work with the **Productivity Commission** to provide bespoke reports supporting their research into *'the value, nature and structure of the markets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts and policies to address deficiencies in the markets.'*

DIGITAL LABEL (PILOT) PROJECT

In 2021, the Australian Government provided funding to ensure the continued technical and training support of digital labelling for art centres as well as an Evaluation of the Digital Labelling Project. With part of this funding, Desart engaged the Institute for Public Policy and Governance (IPPG), to undertake the Evaluation of the pilot project.

A mixed methodology was used to gather data and feedback from the pilot including SAM and Google analytics data, project documentation, qualitative stakeholder feedback, customer surveys and two workshops held with members of the Project Steering Committee.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to complete a consumer survey as part of the Evaluation report. In July 2022, Desart took the opportunity of the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair to work with IPPG again to gather consumer feedback on the QR Code to further inform the roll out of the digital label.

The success of the Digital Label (Pilot Project) resulted in Desart receiving funding from the Australian Government – Office for the Arts to implement a four-year Project.

STORIES ART MONEY (SAM) PLATFORM REBUILD

In building the case for resources to update the SAM Platform, Desart undertook initial research and consultation with art centres across the country and other stakeholders. The initial research and consultation enabled a business case to be developed and presented to the Australian Government advocating for support to rebuild of the SAM platform. The outcome of this work led to the Australian government providing \$1.7 million in funding to rebuild the Stories Art Money (Platform). It is anticipated that SAM v2 will be active in the latter half of 2024.

GOAL 2: PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT OF ART CENTRES

DESART STRONG BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Strong Business Program is Desart's art centre capacity building program primarily designed for art centre managers and governing boards. The activities support art centres to be sustainable and have viable best-practice administrative and operational processes.

The program had four focus areas:

1. Individual art centre manager support through provision of professional and personal coaching.
2. Board support through a planned governance program and flexible contingency support.
3. Professional development program for art centre managers delivered through a series of workshops.
4. Legal support – artists and art centres.



ARLPWE ART AND CULTURE CENTRE

Desart held delegated management authority for Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre for the financial year and provided ongoing governance support to their directors.



PAPULANKUTJA ART CENTRE

Desart oversaw the management of the art centre and provided governance support to the Directors of Papulankutja Art Centre, while also providing recruitment support several times in the year, for both the Art Centre Manager and Studio Coordinator positions.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

ART CENTRE CONFERENCE

The annual Desert Art Centre Conference was attended by 100 artists, artworkers, managers/studio co-ordinators and art centre Directors representing 25 Desert member art centres.

The Conference was held in Mparntwe - Alice Springs in April 2023 providing an opportunity for art centres to connect, network and engage with arts industry specialists, government agencies and supporting organisations.

Susan Templeman MP and Special Envoy for the Arts (representing the Hon. Tony Burke MP – Minister for the Arts) keynote speech focussed on the Australian Government’s landmark National Cultural Policy – Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place. Revive released on 30 January 2023, is a 5-year plan to renew and revive Australia’s arts, entertainment and cultural sector.

Highlights of the Conference program included:

- A panel discussion on *Desert Mob- Past, Present, Future* included art centre feedback, the broader context of Desert Mob’s history, capacity, current ideas and planning for the 2023 edition, and future ambitions.
- Hetti Perkins facilitated a panel discussion on strategies **for building an artist’s profile**, whether they are emerging, mid-career or established. The panel discussed issues such as provenance and marketing when engaging with the arts sector, including public institutions, corporate and private collectors and commercial gallery stakeholders.
- Arts Law presented a workshop focused on **estate management for living and deceased artists**. The workshop presented Donna Robinson from Arts Law provided opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the ins and outs of artist’s estate management including artist wills (and what happens when an artist does not have a will), artist and art centre agreements, and the role of the public trustee.
- A panel discussion led by Kelli Cole centred around **art centres as keeping places and holders of cultural collections**. The conversation covered art centre collection policies (who determines the cultural significance of items and how does this impact the cultural legacy of artists), best practice collection management (provenance, storage, disaster management, security, access, and visibility), the realities of threats to art centre collections and the capabilities of SAM in assisting in the cataloguing process.

Desart acknowledges and is thankful for the contribution of the following presenters/ panel members who generously shared their knowledge, experience and insights: Hetti Perkins, Marissa Maher, Tony Albert, Kelli Cole, Coby Edgar, Makeeta Ratulevu, Judy Grady, Dallas Gold, Lynley Nargoodah, Amy Mukherjee and Donna Robinson.



Faith Butler, Rosie Frecheville,
Sally Butler & Julieanne Farmer
– Tjarlirli & Kaltukutjara Art



Faith Butler, Rosie Frecheville,
Sally Butler & Julianne Farmer –
Tjarlirli & Kaltukutjara Art



Desart Conference 2023



Marisa Maher, Tim Chatwin,
Hetti Perkins & Aspen Beattie –
Panel on Desert Mob Past,
Present & Future – Desart Inc



Arts Law work with Artists to create family trees for will - Desart Inc

ARTS LAW OUTREACH

Desart continues to work closely in partnership with Arts Law Australia to support art centres and artist in our regions with legal support. During the year, 3 arts law outreach trips were undertaken resulting in 81 artists wills being prepared and 119 legal advices provided to artists and art centre managers.

In September 2022 September Desart and Arts Law travelled to art centres located in the Ngaanyatjarra West and APY South regions. Art centres visited included Tjarlirli and Kaltukatjara Art in Docker River NT, Warakurna Artists in Warakurna WA, Papulankutja Artists in Blackstone WA, Tjala Arts in Amata SA, Maruku Arts in Mutijulu NT and Walkatjara Art in Mutijulu NT. The September outreach provided 55 advices along with the preparation of 31 artist wills.

In October 2022 Desart and Arts Law travelled to the Barkly region and visited art centres in Tennant Creek, Epenarra and Canteen Creek. Four art centres were visited, three of those coming under the umbrella of Barkly Regional Arts (BRA) Tennant Creek studio, Epenarra, Canteen Creek). The outreach team also visited Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek NT. 32 advices were provided along with 26 wills completed for artists.

In February 2023 Desart and Arts Law travelled to art centres in the Utopia Homelands and at Ali Curung (Barkly region). On this outreach trip two art centres were visited, Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre and Utopia Art Centre. However, Utopia Art Centre is unique as it encompasses 16 remote homelands, on this trip we visited four of these homelands - Aniltji, Arlparra/Urapuntja, Apungalindum & Camel Camp.

32 advices were provided along with **24** wills completed for artists.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

VICARIOUS TRAUMA AWARENESS AND SELF CARE TECHNIQUES TRAINING WORKSHOP

In June 2023 Desart facilitated the delivery of the Vicarious Trauma Awareness and Self Care Techniques Training Workshop. A full day training session in Mparntwe - Alice Springs for art centre managers and studio staff. 17 staff from 10 art centres participated in the workshop including Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre, Barkly Regional Arts, Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists, Hermannsburg Potters, Mimili Maku Arts, Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre, Papunya Tjupi Arts, Tangentyere Artists, Utopia Art Centre, Warlayirti Artists.

ART CENTRE MANAGER COACHING PROGRAM

In partnership with Matrix on Board, Desart delivered the Art Centre Manager Coaching program. The program aims to support 5 new managers per year with 15 hours of confidential and independent business support and advice. Art Centres supported in 2022 – 2023 included:

- Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre
- Artists of Ampilatwatja
- Papunya Tjupi Arts
- Tjungu Palya
- Utopia Art Centre.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SUPPORT PROGRAM



Desart provides a Information Technology (IT)T support service to all our member art centres. IT services are supported through a service agreement with Onsite.

LEGAL SUPPORT



Desart members are able to access confidential legal support through our service agreement with Arts Law. In 2022-23, 115 requests for legal advice were provided to art centres.



GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

Desart supports art centre Boards with governance and financial management training delivered on-site in community. Support and training are actioned on request of the art centre and determined by individual art centre needs including independent facilitation of meetings or general governance training.

- Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre
- Papulankutja Artists
- Artists of Ampilatwatja
- Tjarlirli Arts

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

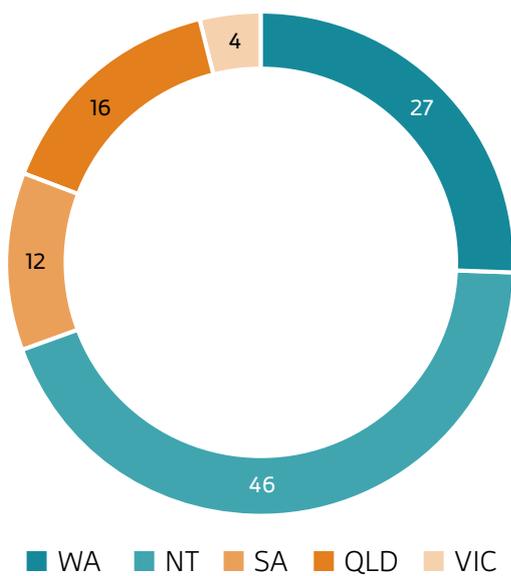
RECRUITMENT / HR SUPPORT

Desart supported **12** member art centres to recruit Art Centre Managers and Studio Coordinators to **14** different vacancies throughout the year. Support varied from placement of adverts on Desart's website and social media, to working with art centres to interview and referee check candidates, negotiate employment agreements, welcome them to central Australia, and escort them to their new art centres in communities.

STORIES ART MONEY (SAM) PLATFORM

Stories Art Money (SAM) is Desart's software designed for managing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) art businesses and art centres. This financial year, the number of ATSI art centres using SAM increased to **105** active by June 2023, with a total of **118** SAM Licenses having been provided since 2012.

MAP OF CLIENTS BY STATE AND TERRITORY



105 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander art centres use the SAM Platform

416

TOTAL # OF TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

153

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTICIPANTS

147

DESART MEMBERS VS 269 NON-DESART MEMBERS

817

INSTANCES OF SAM TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Desart employed a dedicated SAM Communications and Training Coordinator in November 2022. This saw an increase in the delivery of SAM Training to **416** participants in training with **153** identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and **147** Desart members vs **269** non-Desart art centre members. The SAM technical support team provided email and phone support to **817** individual enquiries.

SAM REBUILD

SAM requires a significant rebuild to meet the technical and business challenges of the evolving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art business.

The vision for the SAM rebuild represents a significant change for the program. SAM requires a complete redesign so users will have a much better experience. SAM will be easier to learn and use, and its operation will be more stable and reliable. New functionality will be added, such as artwork licensing. Existing functions, such as 'search,' will be significantly improved. The rebuild will also enable SAM to be used with mobile technology. The SAM rebuild will also ensure that our data remains secure.

Desart invited specialist software and design companies to submit proposals for the rebuild project. The contract was awarded to Symplicit, an experienced and highly credentialed Australian UX/UI design firm.

Symplicit, in partnership with Desart, has already initiated consultation, research, and co-design activities as part of the rebuild. Co-design is the input and contribution of users and stakeholders. This collaborative approach with art centres and staff will continue through the project's build, testing, and training phases.

The new version of SAM will be available in 2024.



Bana Yiriji staff member, Junibel making a sale in SAM

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL LABELLING

Desart received funding from the Australian Government to undertake a national rollout of the Digital Labelling Project, delivered over a three-year period from July 2022 – June 2025. The project provides support in the implementation of Digital Labelling for Art centre products and artworks through the SAM Platform.

In August 2022 a QR code Survey was completed at Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. From this survey digital labels were shown to be a positive tool for art centres that have the capacity to implement them, and consumers wanting to find out further information about products and artworks.

desart.com.au/publication/desart-consumer-qr-code-survey

Digital labels and their capacity for raising consumer awareness of provenance and were found to be helpful as one method for promoting authenticity and enhancing sales of authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander product, playing an important part of a wider action aimed at preventing inauthentic art and products.

PROJECT RESOURCING

In February 2023, Desart employed a Digital Labelling Project Coordinator to implement the project rollout and ensure the project is well-resourced, professionally managed, and centrally coordinated under a coherent model.

EOI AND SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Through the Digital Labelling Project, Desart will support 9 – 15 art centres from September 2023 – June 2025 with the aim to:

- Elevate, differentiate, and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centre products
- Support art centres with their unique product labelling needs
- Build capacity, by providing training and professional development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art workers and art centre staff
- Educate the consumer on the authenticity of their purchase, whilst addressing the issue of fake art and products by sharing information about the art centre, artists, art and products
- Increasing product and market knowledge, through access to resources related to digital labelling, product development, design, budgeting, pricing strategies, content development, product marketing, sales, stock management, ICIP and Copyright etc.

Support will be tailored to the individual art centre, determined by a needs analysis, focusing on the areas of promotion and marketing; content development; systems and processes; resourcing and training and practical on-the-ground project support for staff and art workers.

In May this year, Desart invited EOI's nationally from Art centres wishing to participate and received 24 applications. Desart engaged a panel of 5 representatives from each of the peak bodies including ANKA, Desart, AACHWA, IACA, Ku Arts to assist with the selection of participants for the project.

ART CENTRE COUNSELLING



The EASA Employee Assistance Program is a work-based intervention program designed to enhance the emotional, mental and general psychological wellbeing of staff. Desart offers this service to all member art centres. 35 counselling sessions were provided during the year. Desart encourages all art centre staff to utilize this service if needed.

GOAL 3: INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE ARTS

ABORIGINAL ART WORKER PROGRAM

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

In March 2023 Desart facilitated the delivery of digital photography workshops to 5 art centres. The workshops support Aboriginal artworkers in acquiring digital photography skills applicable and relevant to their artworker roles including cataloguing, inventory management, marketing (social media) and reporting.

Digital photography workshops delivered to:

- Iltja Njarra - many Hands Art Centre
- Utopia Art Centre
- Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre
- Maruku Arts
- Tjarlirli Art

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

GOAL 4: PROMOTE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ARTS AND CULTURE



DESERT MOB

This year was a historic and transitional year for Desert Mob as Desart assumed full management of the event since first presented in 1989.

In 2022, thirty-two Desert member art centres from WA, SA, and the NT participated in Desert Mob. More than 10,000 visitors attended the event with 264 artists showcasing 230 works in the Desert Mob exhibition. The Desert Mob marketplace welcomed approximately 3000 attendees with sales generating an estimated \$400,000 in income returned to the participating art centres.

Elaine Kngwarreye Peckham, senior custodian of Mparntwe- Alice Springs welcomed visitors to the opening of Desert Mob 2022 with the opening speech delivered by Bobby West Tjupurrula in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Papunya Tula Artists. Performances by the Arrernte dance group Tinkerbee Dancers and the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir not only entertained the audience but gave further insight into

the remarkable diversity of arts practice from our region.

The 2022 Desert Mob Symposium was not presented due to ongoing challenges we continued to face in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. In lieu of the Symposium being presented Desart produced 4 short films promoting the extraordinary work of artists and art centres in our region. The short films presented as the Art Centres on Screen were broadcast on a number of social media platforms, including the Desart website and YouTube channel. Art Centres on Screen were shown in the lead up to the opening weekend of Desert Mob and generated a national and international audience of 40,000.

The Art Centres on Screen developed program showcases the contemporary arts practice grounded in deep cultural knowledge of artists. The films can viewed here: www.youtube.com/@desarttv6199/videos

264

ARTISTS SHOWCASING
230 WORKS

10,243

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

“

BEST THING THAT HAPPENS IN ALICE ALL YEAR. SHOULD BE PROMOTED NATIONALLY AT MUCH HIGHER LEVEL!

WONDERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE PASSION, COMMITMENT AND ONGOING DEDICATION TO ARTISTIC PURSUITS OF COMMUNITIES. SUCH A POSITIVE MESSAGE TO US ALL ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE.

AN OUTSTANDING EVENT, BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK, AN AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE OF ABORIGINAL CULTURE IN MPARNTWE.

”



This page: Desert Mob 2023 © Desert
Opposite page: Tinkerbee Dancers.
Desert Mob 2023 Opening Performance © Desert

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES



| Hermannsburg Potters



Hermannsburg Potters.
Desert Mob 2023 © Desart

6,293 | DESERT MOB ATTRACTED 6,293 INDIVIDUALS OF WHICH 76.9% WERE FEMALE AND 23.1% WERE MALE. OVERALL, THE EVENT ATTRACTED 64.4% OF ATTENDEES IN THE 55-64 AND THE 65+ AGE CATEGORY.

2,028 | DESERT MOB WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING 2,028 PRIMARY PURPOSE VISITORS TO THE ALICE SPRINGS REGION. WITH THE MAJORITY FROM INTERSTATE (1,845 VISITORS).

4.9/5 | THE FESTIVAL EVOKED COMMUNITY PRIDE IN LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF AGREEMENT BEING RECORDED FOR THE STATEMENT 'IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NT GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT EVENTS LIKE THIS' (4.9 OUT OF 5).

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

\$141,102

TOTAL SALES

116

TOTAL # OF SALES

DESART CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

The Desart Christmas MarketPlace, initiated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 as a means to support art centre sales while restrictions on physical events were in place. Desart again presented the 2022 Christmas MarketPlace online on the Desart website www.desart.com. 24 art centres participated in the two-day online MarketPlace which generated a national and international audience of 5500.

DESART PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
CURATED BY ASPEN BEATTIE



Photo © Desart

DESART PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

In 2022 the **Desart Photography Prize - 10 year Celebration** was presented at the Desart Artspace. The 10 year celebration showcased past Prize winners and a selection of highly commended works. The 10 Year Celebration was curated by Aspen Beatty who has moved from her previous role as the Desart Administration Officer into a curatorial training position.

26 works sourced from the Desart Photography Prize archive, representing 12 art centres were presented in celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the annual Desart Photography Prize.

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the special purpose financial acquittal report comprising Statement of Project Income and Expenditure of the Desart Inc, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Programme for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In our opinion, the financial acquittal report presents fairly, in all material respects, the Program Income and Expenditure of the Desart Inc, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Programme for the year ended 30 June 2023 and such funds were applied for the approved purpose as outlined in the funding agreement.

Basis for Opinion

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Acquittal Report section of this report. I am independent of Desart Inc, in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code). I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the basis of accounting. The financial acquittal report has been prepared to assist Desart Inc meet the requirements of their Funding Agreement with the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Programme. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for other purposes.

Responsibilities of Management for the financial acquittal report

Management of Desart Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial acquittal report in accordance with the funding agreement. Management is also responsible for such internal controls as they determine are necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial acquittal report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Management are responsible for overseeing the Program's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial acquittal report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial acquittal report based on our audit. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial acquittal report in order to express an opinion on it to the funding agency.

Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial acquittal report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of trustees taken on the basis of this financial report.



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd is a CPA practice

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CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS



SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial acquittal report is free from material misstatement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial acquittal report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Project's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial acquittal report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial acquittal report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

- (a) the financial acquittal report satisfies the requirements of the funding agreement.
- (b) we have received all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit.
- (c) Desart Inc has kept financial records sufficient to enable the acquittal report to be prepared and audited.
- (d) Desart Inc has kept other records as required by the Funding Agreement.

Inherent limitations

Due to the inherent limitations of an assurance engagement, together with the internal control structure it is possible that fraud, error, or non-compliance with the funding agreement may occur and not be detected. A reasonable assurance engagement does not provide assurance on whether compliance with the funding agreement will continue in the future.



Paul Gilbert FCPA MBA
Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd
Dated this 17th day of November 2023



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

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CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

DESART INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTES	2022	2021
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	4,833,992.26	3,004,694.89
Trade and other Receivables	4	51,180.63	112,753.45
Prepayments		1,365.00	20,781.91
Total Current Assets		4,886,537.89	3,138,230.25
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	192,506.87	295,577.08
Total Non-Current Assets		192,506.87	295,577.08
TOTAL ASSETS		5,079,044.76	3,433,807.33
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	324,240.07	239,868.21
Employee Benefits		42,621.60	39,495.75
Other financial liabilities	7	3,235,706.31	1,742,630.03
Total Current Liabilities		3,602,567.98	2,021,993.99
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits		59,125.13	51,735.00
Total Non-Current Liabilities		59,125.13	51,735.00
Total Liabilities		3,661,693.11	2,073,728.99
NET ASSETS		1,417,351.65	1,360,078.34
EQUITY			
General Reserve		369,839.00	369,839.00
Desert Mob Reserve		41,110.17	-
Retained Profits		1,006,402.48	990,239.34
Total Equity		1,417,351.65	1,360,078.34

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

DESART INC

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Trading Profit		
Grant Income	3,828,937.80	2,645,576.20
Unexpended Grant brought forward	1,149,766.26	393,663.65
Unexpended Grants carried forward	(2,634,894.81)	(1,149,766.26)
Other revenue	1,022,358.17	493,259.66
Total Trading Profit	3,366,167.42	2,382,733.25
TOTAL INCOME	3,366,167.42	2,382,733.25
EXPENSES		
Administration Costs	423,858.51	297,050.57
Art Camp	-	9,090.91
Art Centre Subsidies	10,477.55	-
Art Centre Support	71,658.34	110,974.49
Art Worker Program	26,535.07	12,153.83
Audit Fees	10,000.00	4,300.00
Bad Debts	9,788.13	1,700.00
Bank Fees	14,856.04	1,021.13
Bookkeeping	45,240.00	44,370.00
Cleaning	13,662.92	9,158.57
Conference / Events	45,968.68	-
Consultant	220,324.29	181,728.94
Depreciation	103,070.21	107,703.13
Desert Mob Expenses	690,110.78	60,510.47
Electricity	5,249.97	4,964.19
Fringe Benefits Tax	39,802.23	35,920.80
Grants repaid	-	43,226.00
Insurance	22,781.36	8,923.45
IT Support	30,065.63	26,960.55
Legal	60,215.98	14,485.23
Marketing & Promotion	49,449.69	32,209.05
Materials & Supplies	22,103.73	33,246.17
Meeting Expenses	95,595.17	38,221.11
Motor Vehicle Expenses	69,205.27	67,686.05
Non Depr Assets <\$5,000	16,903.69	31,856.24
Postage	25,708.75	2,088.98
Printing & Stationary	12,209.94	3,696.84
Program Expenses	91,244.16	214,308.15
Recruitment	3,745.00	5,759.70

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

DESART INC

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
Repairs & Maintenance	5,673.57	1,695.50
Rent	116,720.37	98,536.60
Salaries & Wages	700,355.71	591,364.42
Stories Art Money Expenses	51,824.76	87,586.45
Subscriptions	19,794.68	14,737.49
Superannuation	69,555.48	57,896.83
Telephone & Internet	8,267.00	10,107.00
Training	4,355.91	3,807.05
Travel Expenses	102,515.54	23,416.92
Total Expenses	3,308,894.11	2,292,462.81
NET PROFIT	57,273.31	90,270.44

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Statement by Members of the Committee

DESART INC
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The directors of the Association declare that:

- 1. the financial statements and notes for the year ended 30 June 2023:
- 1. comply with Accounting Standards as stated in basis of preparation Note 1 and
- 2. give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association;
- 2. In the directors' opinion , there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay it's debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Committee Member *Isobel Nambajimba*

Committee Member *Sonya Murphy*

Dated this *20th* day of *NOV* 20 *23*



Australian Government

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support



Australian Government



Northern Territory
Government