

Art, words and photos from
Central Australian Aboriginal Art Centres

Quarterly edition, Spring 2021

THE DESART RADAR



Culture First.

Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia



Hermannsburg Potters Men's Program launched!

Hermannsburg Potters Men's Development Program was launched this year with highly creative results. Artists, Colin Malbunka, Exance Pareroutlja, Voight Ratara and Andrew Ebatarinja are creating a body of work inspired by Hermannsburg artists of the past 30 years, while developing their own individual style.

The works will feature in the first ever men's exhibition at Alcaston Gallery in December.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, it's arts funding and advisory body.



Images: (top) Voight Ratara working on his design, (L-R) Colin Malbunka, Exance Pareroutlja, Voight Ratara and Andrew Ebatarinja in the studio. Photos courtesy of Hermannsburg Potters.



Frock On!

Ikuntji Artists' **Frock On!** project is a stunning contemporary collaboration bringing together Indigenous designed fabric with the sewing community and fashion lovers.

The project is a celebratory event that shines a light on the quality of handprinted fabrics, the artists behind them, the place of slow handmade fashion, the skilled designers and sewers who work with them and everything in between.

Over 28 makers and fabric lovers from around Australia and the USA plus over 70 metres of fabric designed by Ikuntji Artists and hand printed by Publisher Textiles in Sydney, participated.

This project continues to elevate the voice of Aboriginal artists in the fashion industry, creating new bold narratives that are deeply rooted in the culture of place.

Facilitated by Flying Fox Fabrics, the project culminated in an Awards Event featuring hundreds of hours of work and creativity by dozens of people on the runway with six outfits being chosen for the IOTA21 Conference and Fashion Event – **Curiosity and the Cloth**.

#frockon2021 / ikuntji.com.au

Images courtesy of Ikuntji Artists

A new mural by Iltja Ntjarra artists

Iltja Ntjarra Art Centre teamed up with visiting artist Kaff-eine during the **Alice Springs Street Art Festival** presented in August by Red Hot Arts.

The contributing artists transferred their traditional Hermannsburg School style to the walls of Mparntwe. In collaboration with Kaff-eine's distinctively animated and cheery characters, the Iltja Ntjarra artists introduced elements of contemporary life with natural landscapes juxtaposed with consumer culture.

"This mural was about welcoming people to come and enjoy our country, spend time here and see the landscape with your own eyes. We like you to take photos but we ask that you leave the country as you found it."

– Vanessa Inkamala

The festival was successful in adding vibrancy and life to the CBD of Mparntwe/Alice Springs paying homage to the Central Australian landscape and community and creating professional development opportunities for emerging local talent.

Image: Selma Coulthard with her work.



Image L-R: Benita Clements, Dellina Inkamala, Mandy Malbunka, Dianne Inkamala, Vanessa Inkamala, Selma Coulthard with visiting artist Kaff-eine. Photos courtesy of Iltja Ntjarra Art Centre.

Tanya Singer wins this year's Desert Photography Prize



Tanya Singer of Maruku Arts and Crafts has taken out this year's Photography Prize with her work *My Mother's Favourite Flowers*.

Coby Edgar, Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art AGNSW, who judged the prize said of the work "the story caught my attention, the focus on the delicate flower being her late mother's favourite and the impact climate change is having in trying to source that flower".

Montana Clause of Martumili Artists was awarded Highly Commended for her portrait of friend Tamisha Williams. Edgar said

"It's such a great example of the relationship between a photographer and a model even though the focus of the work is the earrings".

Edgar's second Highly Commended went to Sonya Murphy of Arlpwe Art and Culture whose untitled work demonstrates the process of jewellery making from a distinct vantage point.

Accepting her award as the overall winner for 2021 Tanya Singer said she was "ecstatic and a little overwhelmed". She said "the Desert Photography Prize opens opportunities in art centres and particularly the young people to broaden their views and present their lives in their way".

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the **Desert Photography Prize**, which was established to deliver opportunities to develop technical skills and encourage experimentation with new media. The Prize also allows art workers to work with industry specialists including curatorial opportunities.

Image: *My Mother's Favourite Flowers* by Tanya Singer, winner of the 2021 Desert Photography Prize.

Congratulations!

Desart would like to congratulate and celebrate all the artists involved in the 2021 **Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards**.

These prestigious awards showcase the brilliant contemporary works of emerging and established artists who collectively truly represent the art of the nation.

A huge congratulations especially to Desart's member art centre artists who took out top prizes:

- Timo Hogan of Spinifex Arts Project who won the Telstra Art Award for his work *Lake Baker*, 2020.
- Bugai Whyoulter of Martumili Artists, winner of the Telstra General Painting Award for her work, *Warntili (Warntili, Canning Stock Route Well 25)*, 2021.
- Mervyn Rubuntja and Hubert Pareroultja of Iltja Ntjarra, presented with the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award for their collaborative work on silk-screen mesh, *Through the veil of time*, 2021.

Desart would also like to acknowledge and congratulate all the 2021 Award winners:

- Ms M Wirrpanda, Telstra Works on Paper Award
- Dhambit Mununggurr, Telstra Bark Painting Award
- Pedro Wonaeamirri, Telstra Multimedia Award
- Kyra Mancktelow, Telstra Emerging Artist Award

Congratulations Grace!

Grace Kemarre Robinya of Tangentyere Artists has won the \$10,000 **Vincent Lingiari Art Award** for her painting *Raining at Laramba*.

Ms Robinya's painting was one of 26 finalists in this year's prize responding to the theme *Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water*. Artists from across Central Australia reflected on the significance of water for their collective survival on their country.

Raining at Laramba depicts country around Napperby Station, where Ms Robinya and her husband worked and raised their family.

Born in Ntaria in 1942, she is an accomplished figurative painter whose works frequently feature her signature clouds with sheets of rain. Her vibrant works for Tangentyere Artists powerfully evoke important events, locations and contemporary life in the Alice Springs Town camps, where she lives today.

The Central Land Council's Delgate's award this year went to Leah Leaman of Karungkarni Art and Culture Centre, Kalkarindji, for her work *Following the Waterways* which tells the story of a couple, "the last of their kind", who "followed the waterways by foot all the way from here to the coast ..."

The award was presented in partnership with the CLC and Tangentyere Artists; co-curated by curator, and art writer Hetti Perkins and Marisa Maher, curator and assistant manager at the Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre in Mparntwe/ Alice Springs and supported by the Peter Kittle Motor Company and Newmont Australia.



Image L-R:
Philip Watkins (Desart CEO),
Grace Kemarre Robinya
and Dr Josie Douglas (CLC
Executive Manager Policy
and Governance).
Photo: Oliver Eclipse
Photography.



Key dates

Sep 8 – Oct 13	Vincent Lingiari Art Award, Tangentyere Artists Gallery
Sep 10 – Oct 24	DesertMob, Araluen Arts Centre
Sep 9 – Dec 24	Desart Photography Prize: www.desart.com.au
Nov 1 – 4	Art Centres on Screen: www.desart.com.au
Nov 5 – 8	Desart online Xmas Marketplace: www.desart.com.au

****As COVID-19 has an unprecedented impact on events please check the Desart website and social media for up to date information on all exhibitions listed in this edition.**

Email blasts for Desart members

Keep up to date with industry news, grants, art prizes and competition opportunities. Email programofficer@desart.com.au if you're missing out on our grant and competition email blasts.

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