



Highlights Announced for Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art 2019

The largest festival of its kind, Tarnanthi 2019, will feature over 1000 artists from the length and breadth of the continent, with exhibitions at the Art Gallery of South Australia and close to 30 partner venues, as well as an art fair showcasing hundreds of artists from around the country.

Adelaide, Australia. Tarnanthi, Art Gallery of South Australia's Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art, returns for its fourth iteration in October 2019. Internationally acclaimed and recognised as the largest festival of its kind, Tarnanthi 2019 encompasses a major exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia, a city-wide festival held at close to 30 partner venues and a dynamic Art Fair presented over the opening weekend.

The word 'Tarnanthi' (pronounced tar-nan-dee) comes from the language of the Kurna people, the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains. It means to come forth or appear – like the sun and the first emergence of light. Tarnanthi presents the forefront of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art from across the country and provides an energised platform for artists to share important stories as new light is shed on their practice.

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Tarnanthi 2019 will feature over 1000 artists from the length and breadth of the continent; from the Tiwi Islands to Broken Hill, Ceduna to Port Hedland.

The Festival's creative vision is led by Barkindji artist and curator, Tarnanthi Artistic Director Nici Cumpston. Cumpston says 'Tarnanthi has captured the attention and imagination of people across the country. It is an absolute privilege to bring this exceptional art experience to audiences. The artists are testament to the rich diversity of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, and we are eager for these important stories, and this calibre of art, to be shared with our growing audiences.'

This year's Tarnanthi Art Fair will also bring together close to fifty art centres from across the country, including Tjanpi Desert Weavers who return for the fourth iteration of the Fair. Tarnanthi Art Fair provides visitors with the opportunity to acquire works of art, with 100% of the proceeds going to the artists and art centres.

Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Steven Marshall MP is delighted to see the return of the nationally celebrated Festival and says, 'Not only is Tarnanthi creating a collaborative and nationally acclaimed platform to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artistic talent, the Festival has also generated tens of millions of dollars into our State's economy. We are thrilled that South Australia is home to this inspiring and influential project.'

Laura Tyler, Asset President, Olympic Dam, BHP says, 'BHP values the longstanding principal partnership with Art Gallery of South Australia through Tarnanthi. We are enormously proud of this partnership that continues to build on our foundation of social investment, cultural sustainability and economic empowerment that creates lasting benefits.'

Rhana Devenport ONZM, Director AGSA, says, 'As one of our flagship projects, Tarnanthi's ambitious scope continues to break new ground as an experimental platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.'

Highlights Tarnanthi 2019

This year's Tarnanthi exhibition at AGSA includes works of art by artists ranging from fifteen to eighty-one years of age, and spanning a range of mediums across painting, photography, printmaking, carving, sculpture, moving image, works on paper and textiles.

From Arnhem Land: Works by Yolŋu artists form a key component of the AGSA exhibition. The project, *Gurruṯu*, includes work from outstanding artists working through Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, a tropical hothouse of creativity at Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land. The project explores 'Gurruṯu' – a knowledge system that connects people and the universe across time. Among the artists are internationally acclaimed artist Djambawa Marawili, lauded painter and

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digital media innovator Wukun Wanambi and inspired maverick Gunybi Ganambarr, the winner of last year's Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

Artist Ishmael Marika says, 'Gurruṯu is the connections to the land and to the sea through paintings. Everything is connected by Gurruṯu and linked to Songlines, back through people, plants and animals.'

A collaboration: Guest curated by Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones, *Bunha-bunhanga: Aboriginal agriculture in the south-east* is the first ever representation through visual art of the ground-breaking research of award-winning author, Bruce Pascoe, an Australian academic historian; into pre-colonial land-use practices. For *Bunha-bunhanga*, Jones unites historical landscape paintings and drawings from around the country with rarely seen Aboriginal agricultural tools from museum collections.

From Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands: A number of projects from the APY Lands will be featured in Tarnanthi 2019, from moving image works, to photography, installation, sculpture and painting. From Mimili Maku Arts, senior artist Ngupulya Pumani will present her most ambitious work to date, a triptych titled *Antara*, a three-panelled painting that depicts the Maku Tjukurpa (Witchetty Grub ancestral creation story) two important rock holes and ceremony sites near Mimili.

At its heart, Tarnanthi is a series of exhibitions, artists talks, performances and events, showcasing and celebrating contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

The full Tarnanthi 2019 program will be announced in August 2019.

For further details visit www.agsa.sa.gov.au

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MEDIA IMAGES Available for download from:

https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi2019_Highlights.zip

KEY DATES

- Tarnanthi City Wide Festival | 18-27 October 2019
- Tarnanthi Art Fair | 18-20 October 2019
- Tarnanthi at AGSA | 18 October 2019 – 27 January 2020

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- **Tarnanthi at a glance | 2015 - 2018**

2,627 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have exhibited their work at AGSA and partner venues

744,858 people have attended Tarnanthi exhibitions and events

\$62.97 million of economic expenditure has been generated

14,000+ people visited the three Tarnanthi Art Fairs across a total of nine days

1,500+ artists from across Australia have been represented at the Tarnanthi Art Fair

- **Tarnanthi at AGSA | 18 October 2019 - 27 January 2020**

Tarnanthi includes a series of exhibitions, artist talks, performances and events, presented in partnership with key cultural institutions across South Australia. At its heart is an ambitious exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art at the Art Gallery of South Australia. This Gallery wide exhibition will present works of art from studios, art centres, institutions and communities from as far east as the Torres Strait to the heart of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and beyond.

- **Tarnanthi Art Fair | 18 - 20 October 2019**

The Tarnanthi Art Fair, presented at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute presents 50 art centres from across Australia during the Festival's opening weekend. Festival-goers, collectors and art enthusiasts have the opportunity to meet and acquire works of art direct from artists. The Tarnanthi Art Fair brings together urban, regional, emerging and established artists from across the nation exclusively to Adelaide, offering a remarkably diverse range of works across media. Art Gallery of South Australia is a member of the Indigenous Art Code and is committed to the ethical purchase of works of art. All proceeds go directly to the artist and art centre.

Image: Electric Fields performing at the launch of the 2017 Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, photo: John Montesi