

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



## Tarnanthi 2019 launches and announces international exhibition for Tarnanthi 2020

**Adelaide, Australia:** Following the launch of Tarnanthi 2019 in Adelaide last night to thousands of people at the Art Gallery of South Australia today, AGSA announces that in 2020, for the first time, Tarnanthi will feature an exhibition in France.

Seen by hundreds of thousands of people in Australia since its inception, Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art and exhibitions will now be shown to international audiences. In a diplomatic and artistic coup, AGSA, in collaboration with APY Collective and the Regional Council of Brittany, will present *Kulata Tjuta* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, in Brittany, France in October 2020.

The centrepiece of the Brittany exhibition will be the signature work of the 2017 Tarnanthi festival – a spectacular installation titled *Kulata Tjuta*, meaning ‘Many Spears’, which comprises more than 500 spears, suspended in mid-air.

*Kulata Tjuta* is a project that began with five men in Amata, South Australia making spears on country and has spread to communities across the APY Lands involving many Anangu men and women across the APY Lands. With support of the Government of South Australia, the acclaimed project from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands titled *Kulata Tjuta* will travel to Rennes, along with other works of art from the APY Lands.

Rhana Devenport ONZM, Director AGSA says, ‘As Tarnanthi shows so vividly, art can communicate across cultures and across continents. And through art, Tarnanthi articulates a message about the

depth of culture in this land – a message that shapes lives locally, attitudes nationally and, increasingly, awareness internationally. We are thrilled that legacy that Tarnanthi has created in Australia will be shared beyond our shores in 2020.'

Premier Steven Marshall says, The South Australian Government is proud to support the influential and inspiring Tarnanthi festival. I am delighted that, here in South Australia, we are the first to experience the magnificent art that Tarnanthi is showcasing internationally. Congratulations to the hundreds of artists whose work is exhibited here at Tarnanthi this year – and to the dozens of Anangu artists whose work will tour to France in 2020.'

Following a visit in early 2019 from the President of the Regional Council of Brittany (CRB) and his 28 delegates, the exhibition will be showcased in Rennes, capital of Brittany, as an outstanding celebration of our sister state relationship.

As well as being a cultural exchange, the exhibition will also be a meeting of languages – with works of art from a land where Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and English are spoken, presented in a region that speaks French and its own distinct Breton language.

Public Service Manager and Curator of Archaeological and Extra-European Collections at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, François Coulon, says 'As a museum that displays abstract works of art, this exhibition is important to us as Aboriginal art has quite a different approach and purpose. It is very important for us to 'listen', to understand and to share with our audiences another way of being in the world, understandable throughout the sensitive art of Australia's APY Lands.'

Sally Scales, Chair of the APY Council and spokesperson for the APY Art Centre Collective says, 'The touring exhibition will be an opportunity to not only share with the world the dynamism and creativity of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture, but in particular it will tell the world of Anangu stories through Anangu art – home-grown art and stories from South Australia, from a South Australian festival of art.'

Opening in Rennes on Friday 23 October 2020, the exhibition will occupy an entire floor of the major art museum in Brittany, in north-west France until 31 January 2021. There will also be works of art from APY Gallery available for purchase, bringing home economic benefits of international touring to APY communities.

Tarnanthi: Festival of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art is presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia in partnership with BHP and with support from the Government of South Australia.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### Tarnanthi 2019 Opening Weekend

Tarnanthi 2019 launched last night and will run from 18 October – 27 January. The opening weekend events will feature a series of artists talks, performances, and an art fair. Ryan Presley's Blood Money Currency Exchange will be exchanging blood money bank notes that commemorate Aboriginal leaders AUD notes all weekend. The funds raised will go towards youth programs. On the opening night alone, the Blood Money Currency Exchange raised over \$12,000. More information on the opening weekend activities visit: [www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-opening-weekend/](http://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-opening-weekend/)

## IMAGES

Brittany announcement: [https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi\\_2020\\_images.zip](https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi_2020_images.zip)

Tarnanthi 2019: <https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi%20Launch%20Images.zip>

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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

Image credit: