

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 29 September 2020



## Tarnanthi goes international in 2020

**Adelaide, Australia:** Tarnanthi, the Art Gallery of South Australia's annual celebration of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, will have its first international offering in 2020. *Kuḷaṭa Tjuṭa*, a major exhibition of new works by thirty-four artists from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands will tour to France in October.

Presented in collaboration with APY Art Centre Collective, this exhibition, which features paintings, photographs and an installation of wooden and bronze spears and tools, will occupy an entire floor of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Rennes, capital of the Region of Brittany.

Tarnanthi Artistic Director Nici Cumpston OAM says, 'This celebration of contemporary Aboriginal art presents a rare opportunity for European audiences to experience the creative scope, adaptive genius and artistic dynamism of the present-day culture of Anangu (the name used by Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people to describe themselves). Their vibrant works communicate the Anangu vision of their desert homeland – not as a wilderness but as a wonderland, a landscape rich in food and animated by ancestral creation stories.'

South Australia's Premier Steven Marshall says, 'This is a truly South Australian collaboration and a special moment. *Kuḷaṭa Tjuṭa* presents works created by South Australian artists, telling traditional and recent stories from South Australia, and made possible through a partnership between the South Australian Government, AGSA and the APY Art Centre Collective.'

The title *Kuḷaṭa Tjuṭa* (meaning Many Spears) suggests the determination of Anangu artists to defend their culture, land and language in the face of Western influences and pressure for change. It also refers to the Kuḷaṭa Tjuṭa Project, a long-running cultural maintenance initiative in which senior Anangu artists and leaders share cultural knowledge and skills with younger generations.

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Anangu artist Mick Wikilyiri says, 'By celebrating our *Tjukurpa* (art and culture), we keep it alive, strong and protected for future generations. Each of these paintings created by artists across the APY Lands is a celebration of *Tjukurpa*. Our *Tjukurpa* lives in our country and inside Anangu, the men and women of the APY Lands, my brothers and sisters. Every painting is a song and a dance, it is also a map that details the artist's country. Our *Tjukurpa* is our responsibility and it is also our Power.'

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue that appears in three languages; English, French and Pitjantjatjara. The Breton language from the region will also feature in the exhibition.

This exhibition has been created following an agreement between the governments of Brittany and South Australia with support from the City of Rennes. It is an international presentation of Tarnanthi, an annual celebration of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art held in South Australia. The exhibition will open on the same day as the annual Tarnanthi celebration in Adelaide, at the Art Gallery of South Australia, titled [Open Hands](#) in 2020.

Curated by Nici Cumpston OAM, *Open Hands* is a Tarnanthi exhibition featuring 87 artists and how the creativity of First Nations women artists forms a vital cultural link in sharing knowledge across generations.

*Presented with support from the Government of South Australia, APY Art Centre Collective and the Art Gallery of South Australia through Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art with Principal Partner BHP.*

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Caption: Jacob Tiger, Kamarin Mitakiki, Cameron Young, and Junior Mitakiki performing *inma*, outside Amata Community, APY Lands SA. Photo: Rohan Thomson

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**About Tarnanthi:** An AGSA flagship project, Tarnanthi is an annual cultural celebration that alternates in format between a state-wide festival in one year and a major focus exhibition the following year. *Open Hands* delivers the quality of content and depth of substance that have been the hallmark of Tarnanthi's earlier focus exhibitions, such as *John Mawurndjul: I am the old and the new* in 2018 and *Riverland: Yvonne Koolmatrie* in 2015.

The word 'Tarnanthi' (pronounced tar-nan-dee) comes from the language of the Kaurna 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.

*Tarnanthi is presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia with Principal Partner BHP and support from the Government of South Australia.*

**Kuḷaṭa Tjuṭa artists**

Alec Baker

Maringka Baker

Leah Brady

Maringka Burton

Nyunmiti Burton

Nyurpaya Kaika Burton

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Wawiriya Burton  
Betty Chimney  
Taylor Cooper  
Nellie Coulthard  
Emily Cullinan  
Vicki Cullinan  
Sammy Dodd  
Stanley Douglas  
Robert Fielding  
Witjiti George

Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin  
Naomi Kantjuriny  
Sylvia Ken  
Tjungkara Ken  
Manyitjanu Lennon  
Judy Martin  
Barbara Mbitjana Moore  
Molly Miller  
Samuel Miller  
Mona Mitakiki Shepherd

Betty Muffler  
Peter Mungkuri  
Tjimpayi Presley  
Betty Kuntiwa Pumani  
Margaret Richards  
Keith Stevens  
Ginger Wikilyiri  
Mick Wikilyiri

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**IMAGES:** [https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/MEDIA/Tarnanthi/Kulata\\_Tjuta.zip](https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/MEDIA/Tarnanthi/Kulata_Tjuta.zip)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** @agsa.adelaide @tarnanthi #tarnanthi @apy\_ac\_collective #apyartcentres

**EXHIBITION SEASON:** 16 October 2020 – 31 January 2021

### Tarnanthi at a glance 2015 - 2019

- **1.3 million** people have attended Tarnanthi exhibitions and events
- **Nearly 4,000** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have been supported to create and exhibit their works of art
- **20,000** people have attended the Tarnanthi Art Fair
- **\$3.4 million** in art sales has been generated through the Tarnanthi Art Fair, with all money going directly to artists and art centres
- **Nearly 23,000** students and teachers have attended Tarnanthi exhibitions at AGSA, fostering generational change towards cultural understanding and reconciliation