



## **Program announced for Tarnanthi - Australia's largest celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture**

**Adelaide, Australia:** Tarnanthi: Festival of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art 2019 will feature the work of more than 1,000 artists from around Australia in exhibitions at the Art Gallery of South Australia and venues across South Australia, as well as an art fair.

Tarnanthi Artistic Director, Nici Cumpston says, 'Tarnanthi is a place of ideas and discussion, a gathering place for people to come together to encounter other viewpoints and to make connections. It is an opportunity for new and old relationships to develop and it is a chance to look, listen and hear one another.'

This year's Festival will be launched at AGSA on the night of 17 October by special guests including internationally acclaimed Yolŋu artist and ceremonial leader of the Madarrpa clan, Djambawa Marawili AM; Yolŋu award-winning rap sensation and Australian of the Year, Baker Boy, as well as performances by artists from the Tiwi Islands and from northeast Arnhem Land. More than 300 artists from across Australia will be welcomed to Adelaide to join in the opening weekend celebrations.

Rhana Devenport ONZM, Director AGSA says, 'Visitors to Tarnanthi 2019 will experience sixty-three collaborative or solo projects, thirty presented at AGSA and another thirty-three at thirty partner venues, as well as an abundance of publicly accessible events such as the panpa-panpalya ideas forum, where visitors can hear directly from artists about current and important conversations.'

Participating artists from fifteen to eighty-one years of age, while works of art span range of mediums across painting, photography, printmaking, carving, sculpture, moving image, works on paper, textiles and performance.

At AGSA, Artists from Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre, a tropical hothouse of creativity at Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land, will present a project titled *Gurruṯu* at AGSA, which explores the intricate knowledge system that connects people and the universe across time.

Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones has curated *Bunha-bunhanga: Aboriginal agriculture in the south-east*. As the first visual representation of the ground-breaking research of award-winning author, Bruce Pascoe, Jones unites historical landscape paintings and drawings from around the country with rarely seen Aboriginal agricultural tools from museum collections in the Gallery's historic Elder Wing. The project will also encompass an exhibition at the Museum of Economic Botany in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

A truly South Australian collaboration for Tarnanthi 2019 is that between JamFactory and Ninuku Arts in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Glass blown at JamFactory was sent north to Kalka, where artists hand-painted the glass 'starter bubbles' with their characteristic designs and fired them in Ninuku's new kiln. The bubbles then travelled back to Adelaide to undergo their final transformation, by being expertly blown into large glass vessels at JamFactory, where the works will be presented.

A highlight over the opening weekend is the annual Tarnanthi Art Fair at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. The Tarnanthi Art Fair is committed to the ethical production and purchase of works of art, with all proceeds from sales going directly to the artists and art centres. It is also a unique opportunity to meet and learn from artists firsthand about the works of art available for sale. Tarnanthi Art Fair adheres to the Indigenous Art Code.

Across the opening weekend, a full program of public events, artist talks, performances will be open to the public. Held exclusively over the opening weekend at AGSA, artist Ryan Presley's *Blood Money Currency Exchange Terminal* will offer visitors the opportunity to exchange Australian dollars (AUD) for various denominations of limited-edition Blood Money Dollars (BMD). Based on Presley's series of watercolour paintings, money raised will go to Aboriginal youth programs and exchange rates may fluctuate.

Laura Tyler, Asset President - Olympic Dam, BHP says, 'BHP's principal partnership with the Art Gallery of South Australia through Tarnanthi is an ongoing, meaningful relationship of which we are enormously proud. We are committed to building a foundation of social investment, cultural sustainability and economic empowerment, that will directly and lastingly benefit Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'

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.'

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.

ENDS

---

IMAGES: [https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi\\_2019\\_Program\\_Announced.zip](https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Tarnanthi_2019_Program_Announced.zip)

VIDEOS: Tarnanthi Festival <https://vimeo.com/359699293>

Tarnanthi Art Fair <https://vimeo.com/359704111>

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Lindsay Ferris | Communications Manager, Art Gallery of South Australia

M 0405 046 116 | E [ferris.lindsay@artgallery.sa.gov.au](mailto:ferris.lindsay@artgallery.sa.gov.au)

Kym Elphinstone | Articulate PR | M +61 421 106 139 | E [kym@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:kym@articulatepr.com.au)

## KEY DATES

Tarnanthi Launch | 6pm Thursday 17 October, AGSA Forecourt, North Terrace | FREE

Tarnanthi Art Fair | 18-20 October 2019 | FREE ENTRY

Tarnanthi | 18 October 2019 – 27 January 2020 | FREE

## 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 (APY) Lands and beyond.

## Tarnanthi Art Fair | 18 - 20 October 2019

The Tarnanthi Art Fair, held 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 production and purchase of works of art, with all proceeds from sales going directly to the artists and art centres. It is also a unique opportunity to meet and learn from artists firsthand about the works of art available for sale. Tarnanthi Art Fair adheres to the Indigenous Art Code. The Tarnanthi Art Fair is presented in partnership with Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute.

Image: Ryan Presley, Marri Ngarr people, Northern Territory born 1987, Alice Springs, Northern Territory Blood Money – *Infinite Dollar Note – Dundalli Commemorative*, 2018, Brisbane watercolour on paper, 126.5 x 187.5 x 4.5 cm (frame)  
Collection of Bernard Shafer Image courtesy the artist and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia © Ryan Presley  
photo: Carl Warner