



# Media release

**The Hon Heidi Victoria MP**  
Minister for the Arts  
Minister for Women's Affairs  
Minister for Consumer Affairs

Wednesday 19 June 2013

## Call for entries – Victorian Indigenous Art Awards 2013

Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria today called for entries for one of the State's most prestigious visual art awards programs, the Victorian Indigenous Art Awards.

More than \$50,000 in prizes are available through the Awards program which is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists at all career stages, working across all mediums.

"The Victorian Indigenous Art Awards were established to celebrate and raise the profile of the Indigenous arts sector of South Eastern Australia, which ranges from stunning traditional crafts, through to cutting edge contemporary works," Ms Victoria said.

Ms Victoria said 2013 marks the eighth year of the Awards, which aim to raise the profile of the State's Indigenous arts sector and create commercial opportunities for Indigenous artists.

"Previous award winners and finalists have gone on to gain gallery representation, exhibit internationally, and have their works acquired by major galleries."

Ms Victoria said, in recognition of the growth of the Awards, the 2013 program will be hosted by the Art Gallery of Ballarat, the most prestigious exhibition venue to date.

"The Art Gallery of Ballarat is Australia's oldest and largest regional gallery, with a commitment to Australian art that dates back to the late 1800s.

"In 1932, the Gallery also became the first Victorian gallery to include an Aboriginal artwork in its collection, when it acquired a watercolour by artist, storyteller and leader William Barak. This work is now a centrepiece of the Gallery's extensive Indigenous art collection.

"I am proud to now bring the Victorian Indigenous Art Awards, the freshest look at current Indigenous art practice, to this stunning and nationally-important gallery."

Art Gallery of Ballarat Director Gordon Morrison said that presenting the Awards was a tremendous opportunity for Ballarat.

"This Gallery is proud to support Indigenous culture and, through this exhibition, to showcase Victorian Indigenous art.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to build new audiences for both the Gallery and the artists involved and to working with Arts Victoria to help raise the profile of Indigenous cultural activities within Victoria."

Visit [www.premier.vic.gov.au](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au) for more news

Entries are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists who currently live, or were born, in Victoria. Entries close on Friday 30 August 2013.

For more information and full entry details visit [www.indigenoustartawards.com.au](http://www.indigenoustartawards.com.au)

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