



Media release

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

Saturday 23 August 2014 **EMBARGOED until 6:30pm**

2014 Victorian Indigenous Art Awards – winners announced

- **Victoria's richest and most prestigious Indigenous art awards program**
- **Exhibition opens featuring 35 finalist artworks**
- **Napthine Government building a better Victoria**

Bellbrae artist Jenny Crompton has taken out the state's richest Indigenous art prize, the \$30,000 Deadly Art Award at the 2014 Victorian Indigenous Art Awards at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Crompton, who takes much of her artistic inspiration from Victoria's Surf Coast, won for her intricate installation of found objects, collected seasonally near her home. Her work impressed the judges for its 'delicate construction techniques' and the 'distinct sense of place'.

Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria said the Victorian Indigenous Art Awards aimed to build the profile of South East Australian Aboriginal art and Victoria's Indigenous artists.

"The Victorian Indigenous Art Awards provide an incomparable glimpse into the power and quality of Indigenous art, and on to the artists who live, work and take inspiration from this part of Australia," Ms Victoria said.

The works of the 35 finalists showcase both traditional and contemporary art practices and range from traditional basket weaving techniques to works on wood, as well as photography, painting, video and sculpture.

More than \$50,000 in prizes were presented at the Awards ceremony, with Wonthaggi artist Patrice Mahoney receiving the \$5,000 Federation University Australia Acquisitive Award and Deanne Gilson of Brown Hill, Ballarat, receiving the Australian Catholic University Acquisitive Award, also with a \$5,000 prize.

Other Award winners included Footscray artist Paola Balla, and Glennys Briggs, a Victorian-born artist now based in Maudsland, Queensland, who took out the Copyright Agency Limited's Awards, for three dimensional works and works on paper, respectively.

Ms Victoria congratulated all winners and 2014 finalists and said that it is now the public's turn to be the judge for the 2014 Arts Victoria People's Choice Award, worth \$2,500.

"The works of this year's finalists feature in a stunning exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. I strongly encourage everyone to visit the exhibition, or to visit online via the Arts Victoria website, to cast a vote for a favourite work," Ms Victoria said.

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“This event is great for Victoria’s Indigenous artists, and great for regional Victoria – which is home to many of our artists and to some world-class regional galleries. That’s why the Napthine Government is so strongly committed to the arts right across Victoria.”

Art Gallery of Ballarat Director Gordon Morrison said that all the finalists were to be congratulated on the range and quality of the work on show.

“Once again, with the assistance of Arts Victoria, the Gallery will be celebrating the dynamism and high quality of contemporary Indigenous art as practised in Victoria. There are works of singular presence and originality in this year’s line-up – some very moving and beautiful things,” Mr Morrison said.

View the online gallery and vote for the Arts Victoria People’s Choice Award at www.arts.vic.gov.au/peopleschoice

Voting closes 5pm, Monday 29 September 2014.

The Victorian Indigenous Art Awards exhibition is now open at Art Gallery of Ballarat and runs until Sunday 5 October 2014. For more information, visit indigenousartawards.com.au

A full list 2014 Award winners is attached.

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2014 VICTORIAN INDIGENOUS ART AWARD WINNERS

Deadly Art Award \$30,000

Winner: Jenny Crompton – BELLBRAE

Gathering at Godocut (Seaweed and binder)

Copyright Agency Award for Three Dimensional Works \$5,000

Winner: Paola Balla – FOOTSCRAY

Born Into Sovereignty, Live In Sovereignty (vintage women's gown, native Australian bird feathers)

High commended: Cynthia Hardie – SHEPPARTON

The Soft and the Hard (Cool Ice Porcelain)

Copyright Agency Award for Works on Paper \$5,000

Winner: Glennys Briggs – MAUDSLAND, QLD

Stories within (Screen Print on Magnani Paper)

Highly commended: Lisa Waup – WHEELERS HILL

Encircled Families (Inkjet Print on Cotton Rag Paper, Cotton, Ink)

Australian Catholic University Acquisitive Award \$5,000

Winner: Deanne Gilson – BROWN HILL

Wadawurrung Cultural Tree of Knowledge (ochre, charcoal and acrylic paint on canvas)

Federation University Australia Acquisitive Award \$5,000

Winner: Patrice Mahoney – WONTHAGGI

Jobs, Policy and LOST (Intaglio Copper plate, pigment, soft ground, open bite, aquatint, spit-bite, stamping, relief, drawing and burnishing)

2014 VICTORIAN INDIGENOUS ART AWARDS JUDGES

- **Dr Carole Wilson:** Honours and Research Degrees Co-ordinator, Arts Academy, Federation University Australia
- **Tina Baum:** Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia
- **Tom Mosby:** CEO, Koorie Heritage Trust