

ABORIGINAL ART PUTS ON A SHOW FOR DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

23 August 2012

Given the strong commitment that the Northern Territory has to Aboriginal artists and art centres and the celebration of Indigenous culture and traditions during the Darwin Festival and the NATSIAA, it is only to be expected that the annual Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair goes from strength to strength.

Darwin Convention Centre has been privileged to host the Aboriginal Art Fair for the past three years and welcomed its return to the Centre two weeks ago. The numbers of exhibitors and visitors have risen from year to year and the reputation of the event is attracting both national and international markets to Darwin. The 2012 event hosted a record number of participating art centres from across Australia, achieving a highest ever of forty-eight. The attendance of some 4,500 visitors ensured substantial sales for the visiting art centres.

The Art Fair promotes the achievements of Aboriginal artists, skill development of arts workers, and creates opportunities for artists and their communities to engage with galleries, private collectors and the public who are not able to access remote communities.

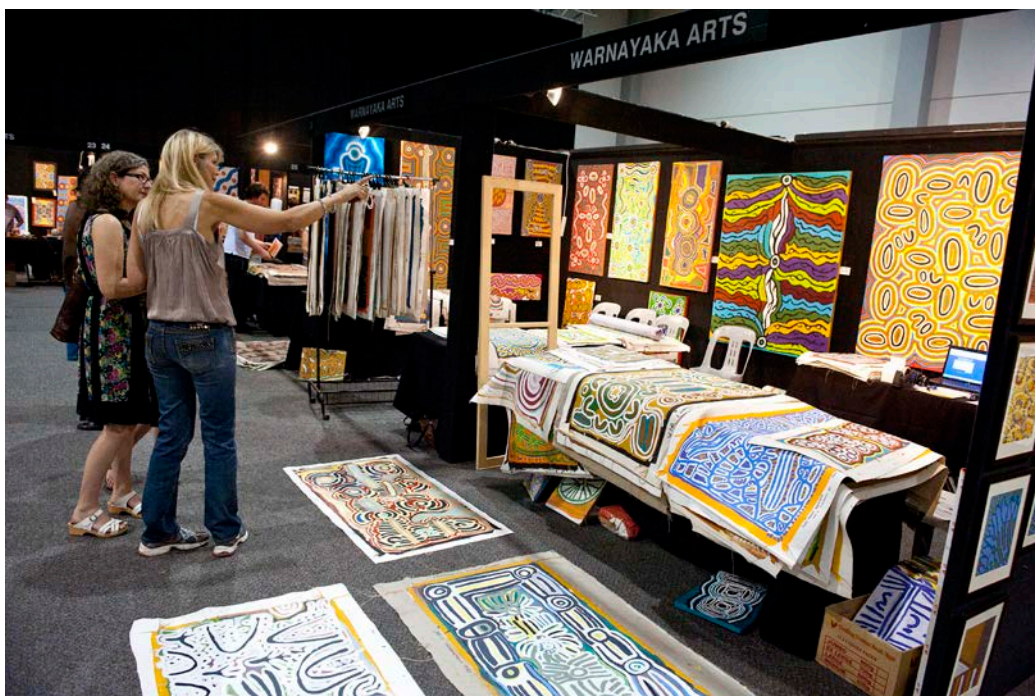
Importantly the Art Fair also ensures the production and ethical sale of Indigenous art by providing a unique opportunity for arts industry buyers and the public to see the work of both established and emerging artists and to purchase directly from the Indigenous owned and incorporated art centres.

Visitors to the Fair enjoyed a wide selection of artistic talents and skills from the country's most remote desert and rural communities to urban centres. The art included both traditional and contemporary works including paintings on canvas, bark and timber, didgeridoos, fibre art, metal sculptures, jewellery and limited edition prints.

DAAF Board Member Claire Summers said; "on behalf of the DAAF Board, we would certainly like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Darwin Convention Centre and we hope to continue our relationship with the Centre in the coming years."

Darwin Convention Centre General Manager Malu Barrios said that, while the Centre was always pleased to have the opportunity to support local businesses and groups, it was a particular pleasure not only to welcome the Art Fair for the fourth year but to see its recognition and success increasing every year.

"The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Board not only presents a comprehensive range of the artistic talents of the Territory but, just as importantly, is committed to supporting the interests of the artists and their groups," said Mrs Barrios.



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