

Tuesday, 23 September 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pukurlarrima – La! Let Us Celebrate

Presented by Papulankutja Artists

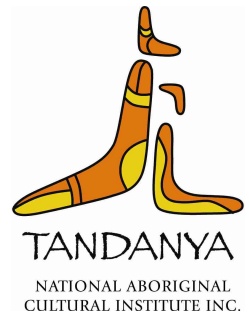
3 October – 7 December 2008

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380,000 km² of Art

Presented by Mimi Arts and Crafts

3 October 2008 – 4 January 2009



Papulankutja Artists, part of the Western Desert Mob in WA, is a vibrant if somewhat eccentric centre. The people are very individual and strong in their culture and the art from Blackstone is a reflection of this. **Pukurlarrima – La! Let Us Celebrate** is a collection of works from the early beginnings of the art centre to now.

The centre has been saving some works by Kantjupayi Benson specifically for this occasion. Kantjupayi, an important Elder, is now living in the Wanarn Aged Care facility where most of her current work is done with other Warakurna artists. Along with her brother-in-law Fred Forbes, Kantjupayi is an original settler of Blackstone and was the dreamer and initiator behind the 'Spinifex Toyota' that won the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award in 2006. This exhibition is an excellent opportunity to celebrate Kantjupayi Benson in particular, as well as some of the younger and more emerging artists from the region.

Mimi Arts and Crafts, a Katherine based Aboriginal owned working arts centre, will be showcasing a number of its artists in **380,000km² of Art** at Tandanya from 3 October – 4 January 2009. This will be a great opportunity to see the diversity and richness of the artwork coming out of the Katherine region in the Northern Territory, an arts region that is still evolving and is relatively undiscovered.

The exhibition will display a range of styles, including the traditional Arnhem Land and Tanami Desert styles, contemporary art from Rivers region, the eastern areas of the NT and the distinctive style of renowned artist Bill Harney from Menngen, also known as Innisvale Station.

Mimi Arts and Crafts diversity derives from the huge region that it covers. The total area is 380,000 square kilometres and stretches from the Queensland border right across to the WA border, up north into Arnhem Land and down south into the Tanami desert. Established in 1978 as an Aboriginal initiative, Mimi represents more than 22 different communities and a great number of outstations, family groups as well as the people living in the town and townships in the region.

IMAGES L-R: Kantjupayi Benson, *Minyma Kutjara Tjukurpa*, 152.4 x 76.2cm, acrylic on canvas (Papulankutja Artists), Margaret Bowyingii Duncan, *How the Native Cat make a Spring*, 2008, 90 x 66cm, acrylic on linen (Mimi Arts and Crafts)

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For further information please contact:

Liz Nowell

Exhibitions Coordinator

National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Tandanya

253 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

+61 8 8224 3234

visualarts@tandanya.com.au

www.tandanya.com.au

Notes to Editors:

ABOUT – Located in Adelaide, South Australia and established in 1989, Tandanya is Australia's oldest Aboriginal owned and managed multi-arts centre. The word *Tandanya* comes from the language of the original inhabitants of the Adelaide plains, the Kurna people, and means place of the Red Kangaroo.

Winner of the prestigious 1999, 2000, 2001 SA Tourism Award and Hall of Fame for Indigenous Tourism, Tandanya offers insight into the vibrancy and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in the present context. Open 7 days, 10am to 5pm.