

## Media Release No. 553

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### **SAIBAI ISLAND ARTIST WINS 2014 GAB TITUI INDIGENOUS ART AWARD**

Saibai Island artist, Vincent Babia has been named Winner of the 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award in opening night celebrations held at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 16 April.

Mr Babia received the \$7,000 Award from Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairman Joseph Elu for his lino print depicting the legend of *Adhebuiya*.

Mr Elu congratulated Mr Babia and commended all participating artists for contributing outstanding pieces to the exhibition.

“As usual the variety of works entered into the Award has been impressive and reflective of the rich diversity of artistic practice in our communities,” Mr Elu said.

“I thank all artists involved for their continued support and contribution to the growing recognition of Torres Strait Islander art and culture both nationally and abroad.”

*Adhe Buiya* was selected from 45 works submitted by artists throughout 13 communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area by guest judge Franchesca Cubillo, Chair of the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Senior Advisor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia and community representatives Victor McGrath and Alo Tapim.

In addition to the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award Winner, more than \$8,000 in prizes was awarded across seven categories:

**Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award Runner-Up** was awarded to McFarlen Brian Bowie for his work, *Apu and Kazi Dhangal*.

**Best Cultural Artefact** was awarded to Jimmy Thaiday for his work, *Gaba Gaba*.

**Best Craft Work** was awarded to Jean Tamwoy for her work, *Ngau Aingu Garrpathamai Bugit (My Food Collecting Basket)*.

**Best Work on Paper** was awarded to Tony Harry for his work, *Iron Men Wooden Boats*.

**Best Work on Canvas** was awarded to Gordon Hammond for his work, *Waubin and Epili*.

**Best Secondary School Work** was awarded to Michealine Faid for her work, *Sagerwazer*.

**The National Museum of Australia History Through Art Award** was awarded to Ceferino Sabatino for his work, *Clinging for Life*. This award, which was introduced for the first time in 2011, recognises artworks that best capture aspects of the histories of Torres Strait Islander lives and experiences.

**Highly Commended** awards also went to Alma Sailor (Erub), George Nona (Badu), John Dorante (Hammond Island), Nathan Bob (Hammond Island) and Wasie Tardent (Thursday Island).

**Commended** awards went to Cessa Nakata (Thursday Island), Delizah Levi (St Pauls Community), George Pedro (Thursday Island), Ruth Neru Doolah (Horn Island) and Sam Bon (Thursday Island).

Community members still have a chance to vote for their favourite work, which will decide the winner of the \$1,500 People's Choice Award. Entries can be made until 9 May 2014 by visiting the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award will be on display at Gab Titui until 4 July 2014.



*Adhe Buiya*, Vincent Babia 2014. Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.

**ENDS**

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