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50 NEW WORKS OF ART TO FEATURE AT 9TH ANNUAL GAB TITUI INDIGENOUS ART AWARDS

Fifty new works from across the Torres Strait will be unveiled in an exhibition opening at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 18 June.

The 9th annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award brings together original works by artists from 14 communities in the region, in a showcase of the unique art and culture of the Torres Strait.

The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is an initiative of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Culture, Art and Heritage Programme.

“Since 2008 the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award has presented an annual collection of contemporary artwork produced in some of our nation’s most remote communities,” said Mr Joseph Elu, Chairman of the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

“It is a unique opportunity to witness the exciting developments in the region’s arts and crafts industry, through the works of artists both emerging and established.”

Community members have the rare opportunity to be among the first to view new works by high-profile artists including Segar Passi, Angela Torenbeek and members of Erub and Badu art centres (Erub Arts / Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh), as well as catch a glimpse of some of the region’s most exciting emerging artists.

For nine years, the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award has also attracted attention from some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions and is enriched by the participation of Indigenous curators and artists to assist in the judging process.

“The annual opening of the Indigenous Art Award is one of the biggest events in Gab Titui’s exhibition calendar,” Mr Elu said.

“I encourage all in the community to come along to support our local artists and catch a glimpse of our region’s newest artworks”.

The 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award will open alongside the new exhibition *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks* in celebrations to be held at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on the evening of Thursday, 18 June.

The exhibition opening will include the announcement of Award recipients, and performances by Badu Island dance group *Aibai Sagulau Buai* to complement the cultural maintenance exhibition *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks* opening in the Ephraim Bani Gallery.

The 9th annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award and cultural maintenance exhibition, Evolution: Torres Strait Masks open in celebrations commencing 6pm, Thursday 18 June.

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Vincent Babia, Winner 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, *Adhe Buiya* 2014. Lino print on paper. Image: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.



Nancy Naawi (Erub Arts), *Peteroo* 2014. Image: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.



George Nona, Highly Commended 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, *Ariew Baib (Rain Cloud)* 2014. Image: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.