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Two Torres Strait artists share Gab Titui People's Choice Award

Torres Strait artists Tony Harry and Ceferino Sabatino have been announced joint recipients of the People's Choice Award for their entries in the 2012 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award.

Community members and visitors to the Centre voted nominating Harry's artwork titled '*Apu Kaz*' and Sabatino's '*Badi*' as equally worthy of the award which recognises works most favoured by the public.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Toshie Kris, congratulated the artists.

"Tony Harry and Ceferino Sabatino are extremely talented artists who have supported the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award over many years.

"It gives great pleasure to see public appreciation for the work of two such artists," Mr Kris said.

While highly unique in style and composition, both artworks are closely related to the theme of this year's Art Award, *Native Title*.

Tony Harry's gouache on paper depicts a mother and baby dugong and represents the relationship and respect that Torres Strait Islanders have with each other and the land and sea areas in the region.

In his acrylic on canvas Ceferino Sabatino tells the story of *Badi* detailing the important connection that Ugar Islanders have to the land and the sea and the significance of this to Torres Strait identity.

Both works have been described by the public as 'inspiring', with 'great attention to detail' and 'outstanding use of colour'.

Both artists will receive a prize of \$1,000 from the TSRA.

The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is on display in the Cultural Centre's Wabunaw Geth Gallery until 30 August 2012.

A catalogue containing photographs of all artwork in the exhibition will be available for purchase at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre from September 2012.

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