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Tony Harry Wins 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award People's Choice

Tony Harry, from Warraber Island, has been named the winner of the 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award People's Choice Award.

Over 150 community members and visitors to the Centre voted to decide the award, which recognises works most favoured by the public in the annual exhibition.

Mr Harry's mixed-media work, *Waru Pingerr Ya Alali (Turtle Caught in a Net)*, depicts the danger that discarded fishing nets or ghost nets, pose to the marine environment. It was selected by the public for the People's Choice Award for its striking use of 3D elements on canvas, texture and message of warning.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Acting Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage, Mr Aven S. Noah, congratulated Mr Harry on his Award.

"With works coming in from right across the Torres Strait, Mr Harry can be proud that the public was so drawn to his creation," Mr Noah said.

"It is not only beautiful but speaks of an issue important to us all."

An anonymous visitor who voted for Mr Harry's work described it as a 'graphic depiction of man's impact on nature and ultimately ourselves.'

The 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award opened on 18 June, showcasing 50 works from 14 remote communities in the Torres Strait. Winners in ten categories were announced on the opening night; as winner of the 11th category – the *People's Choice Award* – Mr Harry will receive \$1,500 in prize money.

Community members were given four weeks to cast their votes, with the opportunity to vote closing 10 July 2015.

Tony's work is on display as part of the 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award until Friday, 21 August 2015 in the Gab Titui Cultural Centre Wabunaw Geth Gallery. It can be viewed online at www.gabtitui.com.au or in the exhibition catalogue, on sale in the Gab Titui Gallery Shop for \$20.



Tony Harry, *Waru Pingerr Ya Alali (Turtle Caught in a Net)* 2014. Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.

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