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ACQUISITION OF GAB TITUI ART WORKS

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre has sold more than \$13,500 worth of artwork since the opening of the 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award on 18 June 2015.

The National Museum of Australia (NMA), represented at the exhibition opening by Director Mathew Trinca and Acting Head Australian Society and History, Dr Michael Pickering acquired seven works for the museum's permanent Torres Strait Islander collection.

Another eight pieces have been scooped up by individual buyers for personal collections, the majority of which were purchased on opening night.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage, Mr Aven S. Noah, said the sales are the some of the highest in the history of the Award.

"The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award is a fantastic opportunity for artists to have their works noticed, not just by the local community, but by institutions like the NMA which has a long-standing relationship with Gab Titui and interest in the Torres Strait arts industry," Mr Noah said.

Works acquired by the NMA include woven ghost net works by artists from Erub Arts, as well as Laurie Nona's NMA History Through Art Award winning work, *Danalaigau Rangadhau Kab*.

"Since 2011, the NMA has sponsored a category in the Award, dedicated to artworks that document the history, stories and culture of their community," Mr Noah said.

50 artists from 14 remote communities across the Torres Strait entered works for the exhibition, which remains on display until 21 August in Gab Titui's Wabunaw Geth (main) Gallery.

While many of the pieces have now sold, Mr Noah urges community members not to be dissuaded from visiting the gallery. All works are still on display.

"In some instances works are part of an edition, and other works in the series may still be available on enquiry," Mr Noah said.

The 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award catalogue, showcasing all 50 works in the exhibition, is available to purchase for \$20 through the Gab Titui Gallery Shop. The catalogue makes a wonderful gift and is a small memento of the exhibition.



National Museum of Australia Director, Dr Mathew Trinca, and Vic McGrath with NMA History Through Art Award winning work, *Danalaigau Rangadhau Kab* by Badu Island artist, Laurie Nona at the 2015 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award opening night.

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