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HAMMOND ISLAND ARTIST WINS GAB TITUI 'PEOPLE'S CHOICE' INDIGENOUS ART AWARD

Hammond Island artist Ceferino Sabatino has been nominated as the 'People's Choice' recipient in this year's Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award for his ghost net creation, *Clinging for Life*.

Centre visitors and community members nominated Mr Sabatino's work for the award among 45 entries from across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, describing it as unique, intricate and beautifully executed.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairman, Joseph Elu, congratulated Mr Sabatino on taking out the award for the second time since 2012.

"Ceferino is an artist whose works clearly resonate with communities, both here in the Torres Strait and further afield where he is also experiencing great success," Mr Elu said.

"His work plays a vital role in promoting our region and issues of importance to Torres Strait Islander people."

Mr Sabatino's prize-winning work, *Clinging for Life*, highlights the environmental impacts of discarded fishing nets on the oceans and marine life in the Torres Strait and the duty of care that he feels to use these materials to create art and educate others about the issue.

"At the moment I'm doing a lot of ghost net art, as it's my way of contributing as a visual artist in caring for country," Mr Sabatino said.

Ceferino also works to educate the public locally through exclusive workshops held on Thursday Island and Hammond Island, where participants not only gain an insight into his practice but can also try out some of the techniques themselves.

Ceferino's work will be displayed in the Cultural Centre's Wabunaw Geth Gallery until 4 July and will feature in the 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award catalogue, which will be available from the Gab Titui Gallery Shop from July.

For more information on Ceferino's art and workshops visit him on Facebook by searching *Nino Sabatino's Art*.



Clinging for Life, Ceferino Sabatino 2014.



Ceferino was also awarded the National Museum of Australia History Through Art Award at this year's Award ceremony (pictured above with Acting Head Australian History, Dr Michael Pickering).

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