

Media Release **No. 503**

For release: 15 May 2013

ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR 6TH ANNUAL GAB TITUI INDIGENOUS ART AWARD

It's not too late to get your entry in for the 2013 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award.

Locally residing Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists have until 24 May 2013 to submit entries for this year's Award – the sixth to be hosted by the Cultural Centre since 2008.

This year the Art Award will centre on the theme *Ailan Style*, celebrating the unique island ways of the communities of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, and offers an increased prize pool of \$16,500 to category winners.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the increase in prize money reflected the growing profile of the Award and its importance to arts development in the region.

“The Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award gives artists at all stages in their career an opportunity to develop and share works with an audience that extends, from the Torres Strait, nationally through some of Australia's major art institutions.

“It is unique in the sense that emerging artists are able to exhibit alongside those with years of experience and knowledge to share.”

Mr Segar Passi, winner of the 2012 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, is one such artist whose experience exhibiting nationally includes works featured in the collections of the Cairns Regional Gallery and Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane.

Mr Passi said it was important to work with others and to be able to share the skills and knowledge that he has developed over many years practicing art.

“I try to encourage all young men and women on my island who have hidden talents,” Mr Passi said.

“I want to share my skills and knowledge because all of my paintings are based on our true Torres Strait culture and tradition.

“It has come to my attention that some of us are talking about culture but haven't explained it properly for people to understand, especially our younger generation. Whatever we do, paint, carve, print, dance and sing must have deep meaning in them. If we are after something valuable, we forget that our culture is more valuable and important.”

The winner of the 2013 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award will receive \$7,000 in prize money as well as the opportunity to have their work featured on the cover of the exhibition catalogue. The remaining \$9,500 will go to winners in eight categories, including the newly developed category for best work on canvas.

“In the past, there has been one category for works on paper and canvas. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of works on canvas being submitted and felt this should be recognised with the creation of a new category,” Mr Elu said.

The exhibition opening will take place as part of Gab Titui’s grand reopening celebrations later this year.

For more information or an application form, community members can contact the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 07 4069 0888.



Caption: Segar Passi with his 2012 winning artwork, *Native Title: Our Land and Sea Rights*.

ENDS

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