



FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ART
8-18 OCTOBER 2015
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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TARNANTHI Festival sets record attendance

TARNANTHI Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art has generated the largest daily attendance figures for an Art Gallery of South Australia project. The Festival closed yesterday after 10 days and has attracted more than 50,000 people to its 22 exhibitions and associated events, including a record 2,500 people at the official opening.

Art Gallery of South Australia Director, Nick Mitzevich says the Festival, which opened on 8 October, has been the most ambitious project of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art in the 134 year history of the Art Gallery.

‘For the Art Gallery this response represents more than the sheer number of people through the door. An historic moment for South Australia, TARNANTHI has shed light on contemporary Aboriginal art and culture in a way that we have never seen before.’

‘The emotional response that we’ve had from artists and audiences has been overwhelming, this feels like a moment of true dialogue between black and white Australia,’ Mr Mitzevich said.

TARNANTHI was supported by the State Government and Principal Partner BHP Billiton.

Premier Jay Weatherill says the inaugural TARNANTHI Festival presented contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander works of art on a scale never before seen in South Australia.

‘The success of TARNANTHI has been far reaching. As well as placing the spotlight on emerging artists and improving our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life, it has contributed to South Australia’s international reputation as the Festival State.’

‘As a creative, industrious and innovative state, South Australia seeks to lead the nation through its festivals and events, and TARNANTHI represents a significant milestone in achieving that objective,’ Mr Weatherill said.

Jacqui McGill, Asset President, BHP Billiton Olympic Dam says TARNANTHI was a world-class festival showcasing an incredibly diverse range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art from across Australia.

‘This partnership has enabled us to celebrate the diversity and richness of Aboriginal culture and make a long-term contribution to social development in the communities where we operate,’ said Ms McGill.

The TARNANTHI exhibitions at the Art Gallery of South Australia continue until January 2016, for further information visit www.tarnanthi.com.au.

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