



Media Release:

22.09.08

Desert Mob 2008

The Araluen Arts Centre, in association with Desart is delighted to present the annual Desert Mob event. This year's exhibition will display more than 300 recent works from 35 Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia, with works by artists living and working in remote areas of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to view and purchase art works from both new and established artists, all in one place, directly from the art centres. This year Martumili Artists from Newman in Western Australia join the exhibition for the first time.

As members of Desart, the participating art centres are owned and managed by the Aboriginal people in their own communities. The main focus of these art centres is to encourage the production of art and craft by local community artists and to assist them with the sale and promotion of their work.

Desert Mob is the premier Indigenous art event showcasing work from Central Australian artists, with an increasing number of national and international collectors and researchers returning each year for the show, to view the exhibition and to purchase.

The Desert Mob exhibition will be officially opened at Araluen Galleries at 2pm on Sunday, 28 September 2008 by Honourable Alison Anderson, MLA, and Member for Macdonnell and Minister for Central Australia, with guest speaker, Hetti Perkins, Senior Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The Araluen Arts Centre, in association with Desart also presents the Desert Mob Symposium and Desert Mob MarketPlace, while Desart and ArtBackNT work in partnership to present the Desert Mob DanceSite event, at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, as part of the overall Desert Mob experience.

Desert Mob Symposium

Araluen Arts Centre Theatre and Witchetty's, Friday 26 September 9am - 3.30pm

A unique variety of presentations will be held by Indigenous artists from the Central Australia region and beyond, with the opportunity for the audience to respond. A free bus will be available to take patrons from the Symposium to the DanceSite.

Desert Mob DanceSite

Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Friday 26 September 5.30 - 7.30pm

The DanceSite event provides a cultural backdrop to the Desert Mob exhibition, it provides a greater insight into Central Australian Aboriginal culture and celebrates Australian Indigenous dance.

Desert Mob MarketPlace

Araluen Arts Centre Forecourt, Foyer and Witchetty's, Saturday 27 September 11am – 3pm

The Desert Mob MarketPlace draws together Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia to display a wide variety of art and craft works, with artists and art centre staff on hand to sell, inform and inspire.

Desert Mob Exhibition

Araluen Galleries, Sunday 29 September to Sunday 9 November

Official Opening: Sunday 28 September at 2pm

The Desert Mob Exhibition celebrates and defines a living art movement that is expressed through the heritage values of the oldest living culture in the world.

Ends



Media Note – The media are invited to attend an exclusive preview of the exhibition from 11am to 12 noon on Sunday, 28 September 2008. Artists and art centre co-ordinators will be available for interviews and to answer any questions you may have.

Please note the media are embargoed from publicly discussing or publishing details of the artists or their works, including sale prices, before 2pm, Sunday 28 September 2008.

The media must register before Thursday 25 September 2008 to obtain their media passes and to advise Araluen Arts Centre which events they will be attending.

ALL MEDIA MUST BE ACCREDITED TO ATTEND THE EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW AND ANY OTHER EVENTS

Image - Nyankulya Watson, *Anumarapiti*, 2007, acrylic on linen, 123.5 x 92cm, Ninuku Arts, Araluen Collection. Purchased from Desert Mob 2007

For more information please contact Kelsey Rodda on 8951 1132 or 0401 115 742.

Issued: 11am Monday, 22 September 2008