



The Australian Centre Kate Challis RAKA Award 2013

The Kate Challis RAKA Award is a \$25,000 (approx.) prize for indigenous creative artists. The Award has been made available through the generosity of Professor Emeritus Bernard Smith, eminent art and cultural historian. It is offered in a five-year cycle with a different area of the arts – creative prose, drama, the visual arts, scriptwriting and poetry – being rewarded each year. In 2013, the award is for a particular work in the visual arts.

The judges warmly congratulate all the short-listed artists on their impressive, innovative works. The exhibition of these works at the Ian Potter Museum of Art highlights the diversity of contemporary indigenous art practice: it includes works of various media from artists based in remote, regional and urban areas. There is an exciting energy about both the individual works and between all the works as they collectively reflect on an intricate range of histories and cultures. The judging panel admires the works' beauty, complexity and the evident achievement of these artists.

WINNER

Mabel Juli, *Garnkeny Ngarranggarni*, 2010

While commending all the works, the judges are particularly impressed by the sparse, dynamic and multilayered nature of Juli's *Garnkeny Ngarranggarni* (Moon Dreaming). Incorporating natural pigments, this painting literally draws on Juli's country and invokes the ancient, enduring essence of the Dreaming. At the same time, the work communicates across many cultural symbols, presenting an interplay between various artistic forms and between many beliefs and traditions. It is a poetic, sophisticated work which is deeply grounded in indigenous tradition but also extends outward to suggest the complex relationships existing between a diversity of both cultural and natural human experiences.

JUDGES

Tony Birch, Elizabeth Heathcote, Alison Inglis, Jolanta Nowak (chair), Bala Starr

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