



Celebrate Australia 2002
4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival
10 – 17 November

MEDIA RELEASE

Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art in the spotlight for CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA 2002 - SPIRIT COUNTRY: Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art

Saturday 16 November to Sunday 1 December 2002
Shanghai Library (No. 1 Gallery, Ground floor)

Spirit Country, an exhibition of contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art, will be shown at the Shanghai Library as part of Celebrate Australia 2002 at the 4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival.

This collection of modern Indigenous art is of great cultural and artistic significance. It reflects the bold and resilient cultures of Aboriginal communities in the Central Desert at Papunya, Yuendumu, Haasts Bluff, Utopia. It also features paintings and barks from The Kimberley, Arnhem Land, Gulf Country, Tiwi Islands and Torres Strait Islands.

The collection includes works by Ginger Riley Munduwalawala, Queenie McKenzie, David Malangi, Uta Uta Tjangala, Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula, Jarinyanu David Downs and Rover Thomas.

James Dexter, Acting-Director Melbourne Museum said "this important exhibition is the first exhibition Melbourne Museum has displayed internationally and exhibits some of the best contemporary Indigenous Australian artists through this collection of significant works. As the only Indigenous Australia visual art exhibition to be presented in Celebrate Australia 2002, Spirit Country represents an important part of contemporary Australian art and culture."

The *Spirit Country* collection reflects the enthusiastic response to the vibrancy of contemporary Aboriginal painting. The designs reveal many of the spiritual and cultural beliefs that are important to Indigenous Australians and celebrate the diverse and distinctive art of Indigenous Australians and their spiritual connection to the land.

The collection includes artists who have significant solo careers as well as collective community works expressing peoples' continuous sense of history and spirituality relating to the land through art.

Spirit Country from the Gantner Myer Collection is presented by the Melbourne Museum, in association with the Asialink Centre of the University of Melbourne.

Celebrate Australia 2002 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia International Cultural Council an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts. Other partners include the Australia-China Council, the Australian Film Commission, Austrade, the Australian Tourist Commission and State Governments of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

For images go to the website: www.reckless.on.net/publicity User name: Press Password :Shanghai

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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