



SIGNIFICANT PILBARA ART EXHIBIT COMING TO WIRELESS HILL MUSEUM & GALLERY

Country Freedom Peace is a glimpse into the exciting contemporary Aboriginal art coming out of the Pilbara right now. Opening on Wednesday 23rd February at Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum and Gallery, Yagan Mia Country Freedom Peace features work by highly acclaimed and significant First Nations artists of the Pilbara who have won awards at the Cossack Art Awards. Exhibiting artists are Nyaparu (William) Gardiner, Wendy Darby, Justina Willis, Gloria, Allery Sandy, Marlene Harold, Doreen Chapman, Aileen Sandy, Maggie Green and Corban Clause Williams.

This exhibition will take audiences into the unique creative virtuosity thriving in the Pilbara region.

Highlights include artwork by the following artists:

- Prominent award-winning Yindjibarndi Artist Aileen Sandy whose work is known for the distinctive straight lines, circles and dots and depicts her traditional country around the Millstream Tablelands and Fortescue River. Aileen's work has been acquired by the Art Gallery of Western Australia and commissioned by the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Perth.
- Highly accomplished and award-winning Yindjibarndi Artist Allery Sandy whose work recently featured in SBS documentary Marni, who is known for her vibrant aerial perspectives. Allery regularly exhibits at private galleries in Fremantle and Perth, with work collected by Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Flinders University Art Museum, Parliament House Collection of Western Australia and the Australian Embassy in Yangon.
- The work of the late Nyaparu (William) Gardiner, a distinguished artist, storyteller and language worker whose known for his affectionate portraits. Nyaparu's work has featured in Tarnanthi, Telstra NATSIA Awards and is collected by the Western Australian Museum, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Curtin University, Flinders University, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and Art Gallery of South Australia.

The Pilbara's art centres create the environment for individuals and collaborative arts practice to thrive and culture to be preserved and shared. This exhibition features artists from Yinjaa Barni, Cheeditha Art Group, Juluwarlu and Wangaba Roebourne Art Group in Roebourne; Martumilli in Newman; and Spinifex Hill Studios in Port Hedland.

This First Nations art exhibition is presented alongside Songs for Freedom, a vibrant and uplifting concert on Saturday 26th February Dyoondalup Point Walter Reserve, presented by the Roebourne community with City of Melville and Big hART. Presented by the City of Karratha in partnership with Rio Tinto The Cossack Art Awards is an annual exhibition that attracts artists from many cultures and walks of life. Over the years, success in the Cossack Art Awards has offered Pilbara's First Nations artists recognition and development opportunities, promoting careers and notoriety on a national stage.

The City of Melville is working to deliver this event safely in line with the WA State Government Health directions. Please check in regularly and stay informed.

The Roebourne community thank and acknowledge Noongar elders and their custodians past, present and emerging, on whose country this exhibition is displayed.

Country Freedom Peace is supported by the City of Melville, Big hART, City of Karratha, WA Government, Garlbagu, Tutt Bryant, and CTI Logistics.

Please join us and award-winning Yindjibarndi Artist and Elder Allery Sandy for the Exhibition Opening 6pm, Wednesday 23 February. Country, Freedom, Peace runs from Wednesday 23 February - Saturday 5 March. Open Wednesdays – Sundays, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum and Gallery, Yagan Mia, Wireless Hill Park, Telefunken Drive, Ardross. Free



All Media Enquiries to Bettina Richter, Big hART Media and Communications Manager
E: bettina@bighart.org M: 0414 441 860
W: bighart.org