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Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts
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MEDIA RELEASE

Investing in a rich arts future in the Northern Territory. Artback NT announces the 2018 SPARK NT Curator and Symposium...

Artback NT is pleased to announce Darwin-based artist, educator and curator Sarah Pirrie as the 2018 SPARK NT Curator.

As SPARK NT Curator, Pirrie will be awarded a \$10,000 development budget and \$10,000 curatorial fee to initiate and deliver the exhibition *We are: We eat*.

'This a golden opportunity and one which provides me great joy. As an artist/curator/educator I am appreciative of all the unique opportunities NT artists have to collaborate and exhibit. I would like to believe that *We are: We eat* will provide me with greater insight concerning development of a touring program,' said Pirrie.

Pirrie's exhibition, *We are: We eat*, will draw on of a range of contemporary NT artists to consider food as a cultural determinant, shared language and environmental resource.

'Everyone loves food and I feel it's one of our best communication tools', said Pirrie. 'I hope the universality and local specificity of the theme will resonate with both regional and urban NT audiences to freely identify with the diplomacy of food in our society, environments and everyday existence'.

Pirrie will spend the next few months working with Artback NT and industry mentors to prepare the exhibition for tour in 2019.

The SPARK NT Curator program is a three-year initiative that will offer another aspiring NT curator the opportunity to develop an exhibition from 2019.

In July, the SPARK program also presents the SPARK NT Symposium – Curatorial practice unpacked.

This free event hosted together with the Godinyamin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, responds to an identified need for curatorial pathways in the NT.

In a unique opportunity for sector development, leading curators from the NT and across the country will converge in Katherine on Saturday 7 July to consider the current state of curatorial practice in the NT.

The Saturday program will cover a wide range of topics including the role of the curator as a 'go-between', working collaboratively, curatorial careers and case studies of major exhibitions. Guest presenters include Curators Margie West, Dr.



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Cath Bowdler, Glenn Iseger-Pilkington, Jessica Clark, Bobby West Tjupurrula, Luke Scholes and Dr. Wendy Garden.

The symposium will close with an evening performance of White Cockatoo by the Djlpin Dancers of Beswick.

A further component of the symposium is a full day Friday program reserved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers exploring exhibition development, conservation and curatorial practice.

'We are very thankful for the support from Regional Arts Australia and Catalyst for the SPARK NT program,' said Artback NT's Visual Arts Manager, Jo Foster. 'We have partnered with regional galleries throughout the Territory to deliver the program, with the mission to spark creative relationships and blaze a trail of opportunity for visual arts practitioners in the NT.'

For more program information and reservation please visit,
www.artbacknt.com.au/what-we-do/visual-arts/spark

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