



Artback NT

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– Media Release –
**Collaborative exhibition opens at the South Australian Museum
as part of Tarnanthi**

Still in my mind: Gurindji location, experience and visuality presented by Artback NT opens this Friday, 18 October at the South Australian Museum, as part of Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

The exhibition reflects on the enduring impacts of dispossession and displacement, including those of a pivotal land rights event, the 1966–75 Gurindji ‘walk-off’. Gurindji/Malngin Leader Vincent Lingiari led over 200 countrymen, women and children off Wave Hill Station to protest slave labour conditions and human rights abuse.

“Although other protest and strike actions had taken place preceding the 1966 Gurindji Walk-Off, it was arguably the birth of the national land rights movement in Australia. The events of this time and place have significance for me as a Gurindji/Malngin/Mudburra woman, through my direct family connection to the area, and through my family’s experience as members of the Stolen Generations,” said Brenda L. Croft, curator and participating artist.

Croft developed the exhibition through practice-led research with her father’s community, Karungkarni Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation, UNSW Galleries and UNSW Art & Design. As a part of this, Croft retraced the Gurindji ‘walk-off’ steps in homage to those before her, who made the 22-kilometre journey half a century ago.

“I was motivated to develop this exhibition in partnership with Karungkarni artists and Gurindji community members in tribute to those whose profound communal act of courage, resilience and determination changed the course of history.” Croft said.

Artback NT, Executive Officer Louise Partos said “*Still in My Mind* is a pertinent exhibition that not only speaks to Australia’s layered history but also Gurindji experiences of home and kinship. There is an undercurrent that explores the treatment of Australia’s First Peoples’ and the ongoing impact past and present government policies have had and continue to have. It is only fitting for this complex exhibition to be a part of Tarnanthi and it forms an important discourse with the collections of the South Australian Museum.”

To celebrate the opening weekend of *Still in My Mind*, the South Australian Museum will be hosting a series of programs and events. The official launch of





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the exhibition will be held on Sunday, 20 October with special guest Professor Irene Watson, Pro Vice Chancellor: Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy/Professor of Law, University of South Australia. Brenda L. Croft, curator and participating Artist and Nici Cumpston, Artistic Director, Tarnanthi, will speak at the event together with Kurna Elder, Uncle Lewis O'Brien who will deliver the Welcome to Country.

"Visitors to the South Australian Museum can look forward to panel discussions, storytelling and performances. We're excited to be presenting this exhibition using photographs, paintings, video, digital platforms and archival material to explore diverse notions of home, community and country. Brenda L. Croft is a trailblazer in Indigenous art history and curatorship and it is a privilege for us to have her here for the opening and for this important exhibition to be a part of Tarnanthi" said Brian Oldman, Director, South Australian Museum.

Tarnanthi is presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia in partnership with BHP and supported by the Government of South Australia.

Nici Cumpston, Artistic Director, Tarnanthi said, "Tarnanthi has captured the attention and imagination of people across the country. It is an absolute privilege to bring this exceptional art experience to audiences. The artists are testament to the rich diversity of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, and we are eager for these important stories, and this calibre of art, to be shared with our growing audiences."

The Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Stephen Marshall MP said, "Not only is Tarnanthi creating a collaborative and nationally acclaimed platform to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artistic talent, the festival also generates tens of millions of dollars into our State's economy. We are thrilled that South Australia is home to this inspiring and influential project."

Exhibition Dates

South Australian Museum, 18 October – 26 October, 2019

Brenda L. Croft is available for interview upon request.

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