Highlights from the 2011 Indigenous Ceramic Art Award

With a combined prize pool of $33,000, the ICAA is the premier award for Indigenous Australian ceramic art. Established by Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) and first presented in 2007, the 2011 Award was shortlisted and judged by Tina Baum, Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia. The ICAA celebrates and supports the rich, vibrant and varied use of the ceramic medium by Indigenous artists across Australia.

First Prize ($20,000) was awarded to Janet Fieldhouse for her work *Tattoo* (2011), a sculptural installation utilising a light box and transparent porcelain to explore ritual scarification. Shared Second Prize ($10,000) went to Cynthia Vogler for her representation of the Great Barrier Reef with the pots *Waterways* (2010) and *The Reef* (2010); and Vera Cooper for *Yorta Yorta Generations*, *Yorta Yorta Elders Along the River* and *Yorta Yorta Land and Law* (2010), a triptych of ceramic figures. Vera Cooper was also awarded the Victoria Prize ($3,000). Highly Commended were two artists Nancy Wilson for *Barramundi* (2010) and Emily Ngarnal Evans for *Spotted Stingray* (2011).

“This year’s award highlights the diversity of ceramic art practice happening across Australia by Indigenous artists. There’s a great mix of experimentation, tradition and humour in the exhibition.” said Elise Routledge, Collections Curator / Registrar, SAM.

This exhibition is presented as part of the 2012 Australian Ceramics Triennale, ‘Subversive Clay’, September 28 to October 1, Adelaide.

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