

MEDIA RELEASE
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BENDIGO
ART GALLERY

Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize 2017
17 June – 17 September 2017

Central Australian artist Margaret Loy Pula has won the 2017 Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize for her 2016 work *Anatye (bush potato) 2016*.

Judges who included Mark Feary, Artistic Director Gertrude Street Gallery, Dr David Hansen, Associate Professor, Centre for Art History and Art Theory, ANU School of Art and Design, Hannah Matthews, Senior Curator, Monash University Museum of Art and representatives from Bendigo Art Gallery and the Guy family, were in unanimous agreement in their decision to select Margaret Loy Pula as the recipient of the prize, and commended the vivid impact of the painting, in spite of its reductionist palette.

Judges also noted that, with its demonstrable connection to country, the quietly mesmerising work could also be interpreted through the Western tradition of minimalist abstraction.

Anatye was narrowed down from an entry pool of 291 paintings and 37 finalists, which demonstrates the ongoing dynamism and resonance of the media of painting. Finalists included Matt Arbuckle, Steven Asquith, Andrew Browne, Kirsty Budge, Robyn Burgess, Deidre But-Husaim, Mitch Cairns, Jon Campbell, Sadie Chandler, Marcel Cousins, Jesse Dayan, Prudence Flint, Martin George, Helga Groves, Stephen Hayley, Pei Pei He, Euan Heng, Rachael Hooper, Kez Hughes, Jennifer Joseph, Guundie Kuchling, Michael Lindeman, Christian Lock, Dane Lovett, Fiona Lowry, Karla Marchesi, Robert Owen, Louise Paramor, Anthony Pelchen, Bundit Puangthong, Jordan Richardson, Kate Shaw, Robyn Sweaney, Kate Tucker, David Wadelton and Stephanie Wilson.

Born in 1957, Margaret Loy Puy was the first Indigenous artist to win the prestigious Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize in South Australia. Other prizes include the Paddington Art Prize (Sydney), the Muswellbrook Art Prize (2013), Redland Art Prize (2014) and the Grace Cossington Smith Art Prize (2014). In the last 18 months Pula has held major exhibitions in New York and exhibited at some of the world's top art fairs including Singapore, Miami, New York and Mexico City.

Anatye (bush potato) is part of an ongoing series where the artist paints stories from her father's dreaming, in particular bush potatoes, an important food source of the Anmatyerre people of Central Australia.

Held every two years at Bendigo Art Gallery, the Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize is designed to attract some of Australia's finest contemporary artists, awarding a generous acquisitive cash prize of \$50,000.

This prestigious prize is accompanied by an exhibition featuring the work of shortlisted artists, and is widely considered an indication of the very latest trends, developments and themes in contemporary Australian painting. Previous winners include Stieg Persson (2003), Dale Frank (2005), Stephen Bush (2007), Jan Nelson (2009), Tim Johnson (2011), Chris Bond (2012) and Guan Wei (2015).

The Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize is now in its 14th year, and was established by Mr Allen Guy C.B.E. (1917-2007) to honour his brother Arthur Guy (1914-1945) whose life was tragically cut short whilst in service in New Guinea.

Arthur Guy was born in Melbourne on 24 November 1914, the first son for Arthur and Catherine Guy. He was the only and elder sibling of Allen Rupert Guy. Arthur was educated at Camp Hill State School in Bendigo and then at Ballarat Grammar School. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in a signals unit and served in New Guinea. On 14 February 1945, aged 30, he was on a biscuit bomber mission when his plane was shot down near Lae. He is buried in the Lae War Memorial Cemetery.



Image caption:

Margaret Loy Pula, *Anatye (bush potato)* 2016
acrylic on linen
Courtesy of the artist and
Mitchell Fine Art, Brisbane

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