OFF THE LEASH

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SEPTEMBER 2010

TOGART CONTEMPORARY ART AWARDS

YOUR FREE WHAT'S ON GUIDE

TOGART CONTEMPORARY ART AWARDS

'The buffalo has many meanings to me'
says Darwin artist Nina Battley, finalist in the Togart Contemporary Art Award 2010.

German born, Battley has lived and travelled in Asia, South America and Europe. She moved to Darwin in 2005 and has established herself as an artist with a number of solo and group exhibitions in the Territory.

She is one of 34 artists shortlisted for the TogArt Art Award this year. *'During my childhood living in Indonesia I witnessed the buffalo working the rice fields. When we came to the Northern Territory in 2004 a tsunami hit Aceh and took with it many lives and livestock. Our Territory buffalo came to the rescue. These beautiful horny creatures were trained by buffalo whisperers at Tortilla Flats and sent to Aceh to help rebuild a broken world. At the time I was also starting a new life in the Territory after living for many years in Western Australia. For me buffaloes are a symbol of new beginnings and taking life by the horns. This painting, Tortilla Buff represents a Buffalo family heading to Aceh.*

As an artist', continues Battley, *'I feel very lucky to be able to visually express snippets of nature, fragments of life or lives, fractions of yesterday's sorrow, today's experience and tomorrow's hope. I embrace combining all these precious elements with my love of colour and paint'.*

Now in its 4th year, the Togart Contemporary Art Award is one of Australia's richest contemporary art awards. With a total prize pool of $20,000, the Award celebrates the diversity that makes up Northern Territory art – from Indigenous to non-Indigenous artwork; it showcases the best contemporary art from across a range of art practices and from artists with a connection to the Northern Territory.

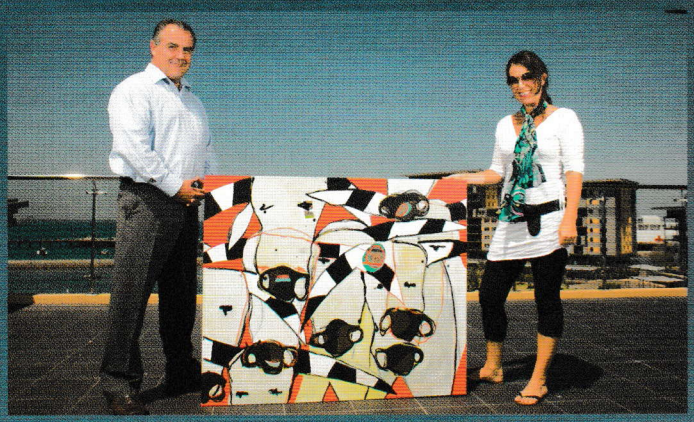
The winner of the Togart Contemporary Art Award 2010 will receive a cash prize of $15,000. The Togart People's Choice Award winner will receive a cash prize of $5,000.

'Territory contemporary art is influenced by place and culture – with extremes in its physical landscape and weather, to it's proximity to Asia and its culturally diverse population; Territory contemporary art has a very distinct language equally within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous artistic communities. The Award embraces this diversity and we have been richly rewarded with the number and the calibre of the works submitted', says Felicity Green, Togart Award Manager.

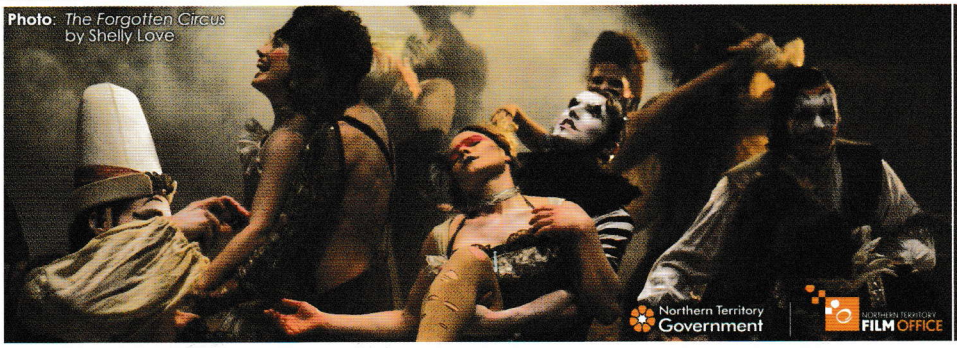
The shortlisted works include: paintings, works on paper, photography, fibre work and a range of sculptural works.
The Togart Contemporary Art Award is an initiative of the Toga Group. Visionary in concept and development, the Award engages with the artistic community in recognising and supporting the work of Territory contemporary artists.

The Togart Contemporary Art Award 2010 exhibition will be open to the public on Thu 02 Sep until Thu 07 Oct in the Chan Contemporary Art Space, State Square, Bennett St, Darwin. Entry is free, open Tue – Fri: 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun: 10am – 3pm.

WHEN WHERE: THU 02 SEP - THU 07 OCT | Chan Contemporary Art Space



Minister for Arts & Museums Gerry McCarthy and Nina Battley
Photography Glen Campbell



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