

## Media Release

Date: 17 January 2012

### Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture

From the desert to the city, from Arnhem Land to Gippsland: the extraordinary diversity of Indigenous art across Australia is now on display at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. **Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture** is a unique and groundbreaking exhibition that features 33 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who have each produced outstanding sculptural works depicting a variety of animals.

*Menagerie* includes fibre works by Yvonne Koolmatrie from South Australia; ceramics by Judith Inkamala from the Northern Territory; wood carving by Craig Koomeeta from Queensland; mixed media assemblages by Canberra-based Danie Mellor and Tasmanian artist Vicki West; work cast in bronze and aluminium by Dennis Nona from the Torres Strait Islands; and much, much more.

The exhibition is a collaboration between Object Gallery and the Australian Museum. Object Director, Steven Pozel, said this collection of animal sculptures reveals individual stories of both object and maker. "This significant exhibition is the most extensive survey of contemporary Indigenous sculpture to tour Australia," says Pozel. "*Menagerie* celebrates the art and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and demonstrates the sophistication and diversity of Indigenous art, craft and design in Australia."

Australian Museum Director, Frank Howarth, said the Australian Museum was excited to partner with Object Gallery for *Menagerie*, which represents a continuation of the Museum's long tradition of working with Indigenous communities and collections. "While the foundations of these collections were based on ethnographic research, the Museum is increasing its engagement with contemporary Indigenous artists and the *Menagerie* collaboration has provided us with the perfect opportunity to acquire significant Indigenous works which will build upon the Museum's existing cultural collections and highlight the vitality of Indigenous culture today."

*Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture is an Object Gallery and Australian Museum Touring Exhibition.*

#### Exhibition Launch

**When:** Friday 20 January, 6:00 – 8:00pm

**Where:** Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

**Cost:** Free

#### Exhibition Dates

**When:** Friday 13 January – Sunday 4 March, 2012



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