

PRESS
RELEASE

ART
GALLERY
NSW

OPEN WEEKEND

AT THE
GALLERY
2, 3 & 4
OCTOBER

ART GALLERY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

**CELEBRATING
ABORIGINAL ART
& CULTURE**



OPEN WEEKEND

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

CELEBRATING ABORIGINAL ART & CULTURE



Gurrir Gurrir performance
Warmun community East Kimberley



Mark Olive aka the 'Black Olive'



Bangarra Dance Theatre

Over the last thirty years, a magical flowering of Aboriginal art has occurred in Australia, captivating viewers around the world with astonishingly powerful artworks and creating a new art movement that could not have been imagined in the 1970s.

HETTI PERKINS

To celebrate *art + soul*, the ground-breaking three-part documentary series written and presented by Hetti Perkins and directed by Warwick Thornton for ABC Television, as well as the *art + soul* exhibition and the *art + soul* book, the Art Gallery of New South Wales will hold an Open Weekend over the October long weekend (2, 3, 4 October) focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

More than 60 free events will be held over the 3-day long weekend with highlights including an opportunity to meet director Warwick Thornton and artists Gulumbu Yunupingu, Pedro Wonaeamirri, Yukultji Napangati, Yvonne Koolmatrie, Ricky Maynard, Judy Watson, Destiny Deacon, Lenie Namatjira, Ivy Pareroutja, Brenda L Croft and Richard Bell all of whom are featured in the documentary.

A special performance, called the Gurrir Gurrir, will take place for the first time in Sydney. It is a renowned Joonba (public ceremonial performance) depicting events associated with Cyclone Tracy and that sparked a cultural revolution recognised today in the Warmun art movement. Fourteen performers from the Warmun community in the East Kimberley will reveal the 'dream visions' received by artist Rover Thomas which inspired this ceremony.

Other highlights include a performance by Bangarra Dance Theatre, a bush spices cooking demonstration by celebrity chef, Mark Olive aka the 'Black Olive', music by Emma Donovan and singer songwriter duo Microwave Jenny, a weaving workshop with Ngarrindjeri artist Yvonne Koolmatrie, a shelling demonstration with La Perouse artist Esme Timbery, a desert culture workshop with women from Papunya Tula Artists, a stencil workshop with artist Reko Rennie and watercolour painting with Lenie Namatjira and Ivy Pareroutja.

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND 2, 3 & 4 OCTOBER



Warwick Thornton



Lenie Namatjira and Ivy Pareroutjia



Russell Smith as Ngununy the cheeky fruit bat

Warwick Thornton's 2009 award-winning film *Samson & Delilah* will be screened during the weekend. Hetti Perkins, writer and presenter of the *art + soul* television series, will be 'in conversation' with Warwick Thornton on the Saturday and with Gallery director Edmund Capon over the weekend.

Many events, including workshops and performances, will be fun for the whole family, and special events for children include a character tour with Ngununy the cheeky fruit bat and learning to sing in local Gadigal language.

- *art + soul* will screen on ABC TV at 8.30pm Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 October
- *art + soul* book (The Miegunyah Press) is available from October 1
- *art + soul* exhibition Art Gallery of New South Wales opens October 2



Principal sponsor of the Yiribana Gallery since 1995



Open weekend is an associated event of Art & About Sydney 2010 presented by City of Sydney



art + soul is presented by Screen Australia and Hibiscus Films in association with Screen NSW, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the Australia Council for the Arts

For further information:

Susanne Briggs

T: (02) 9225 1791

M: 0412 268 320

E: susanneb@ag.nsw.gov.au