

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Big Storm Between Two Places

Exhibition opening Friday 7 November, 6pm

Exhibition dates 1 November – 5 December 2014

Big Storm Between Two Places is a blockbuster exhibition for FireWorks Gallery in 2014.

Three major bodies of work are featured under the same banner: new paintings by senior Warlpiri artist Michael Nelson Jagamara (MNJ), new *Lightning strikes* sculptures by MNJ and new collaborative works by MNJ and Imants Tillers.

MNJ's Brisbane paintings were produced over four workshops during the last two years in the Brisbane based studios of FireWorks Gallery. They are traditional stories and designs; however the heightened colours and amplified formats set them apart from his paintings typically produced in his hometown of Papunya, Northern Territory.

MNJ's new *Lightning Strikes* sculptures will be launched for the first time in Brisbane at this exhibition. The inspiration for the design is the artist's *Rain* and *Water Dreaming* narrative. The sculptural 'base' of these works represents a curved section of the travelling path of the storm. The upward jagged lines represent lightning strikes. Three strikes mean a big weather event! These limited edition sculptures are available in various sizes and finishes including bronze, stainless steel and polyurethane plus 2 pac paint. Indoor and outdoor applications are both possible.

The Brisbane studios have been a place for MNJ to share his stories, which is particularly evident in his collaborative artworks. One of the highlights of this exhibition is a pivotal new collaboration between MNJ and Imants Tillers, titled *The Messenger*. It consists of 64 canvas boards, which evolved over travels between the artists' studios in Cooma and Brisbane. This work will be shown alongside an earlier work by Imants Tillers titled, *After civilisation (for Geoff Bardon)* (1986), which served as an earlier junction point for their ongoing dialogue. Both works reference MNJ's forecourt mosaic design for new Parliament House that was realised in 1988.

Gallery Director Michael Eather says that "We are very honoured to be presenting this exhibition of major new works. Michael Nelson Jagamara and Imants Tillers are two of Australia's living legends, renowned for their individual and collaborative works at both a national and international level."

Big Storm Between Two Places features over forty new works and will be opened by Chris Saines, Director of QAGOMA. Both artists, Michael Nelson Jagamara and Imants Tillers, will be in attendance at the opening.

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