

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glen Mackie: New prints from the Torres Strait Islands

Serena Bonson: Wangarra Spirits from Maningrida

Exhibition opening Friday 17 April, 6pm

Exhibition dates 19 March – 25 April 2015

Throughout March and April, FireWorks Gallery presents *Glen Mackie: New prints from the Torres Strait Islands* and *Serena Bonson: Wangarra Spirit from Maningrida*.

Glen Mackie's (Kei Kalak) current exhibition at FireWorks Gallery is a celebration of his key works from 2009 – 2014. Glen is a Torres Strait Islander from Iama (Yam Island). As the only practising artist on the island, he feels a responsibility to communicate the sacred stories of the four brothers who settled in Zenadh Kes (central and eastern Torres Strait Islands). In his artwork, Glen employs a bold 'minar' patterning style alongside his distinctive geometric designs to express cultural stories and family totemic designs. His works are held in numerous private and public collections.

Serena Bonson is a young emerging artist from Maningrida, Northern Territory. Her striking black and white aluminium sculptures will be launched this month at FireWorks Gallery. These works have been cast and remodelled from her original timber carvings to create unique indoor or outdoor small scale sculptures. Commissions are welcome.

The *Wangarra spirits* inhabit clan waterholes where they are reborn as new members of the clan. It is believed that the *Wangarra spirits* are themselves part of the power of the Ancestral Beings who created the land, so too are the clan members who are the human forms of these spirits.

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