

Here is an important and exciting Indigenous textiles conference in Australia (see announcement below). If you would like a color poster version of this (5 MB) or a simple one-page flyer (36 kb) to display, please write to [tapestry@email.arizona.edu](mailto:tapestry@email.arizona.edu) and we will forward the file(s) to you.

My friend & colleague Valerie Kirk at ANU in Canberra writes: "Richard West (director, National Museum of the American Indian) has agreed to be a key speaker and we hope he will give a North American perspective on the issues we want to address. It would also be interesting to hear from a North American Indigenous maker about how they survive financially, price their work, market, promote and sell their work. So please pass the info to anyone who may be interested.

"It will be a fantastic time in Darwin. The Art Awards are the highlight of the year with Indigenous people, curators, gallery directors, press, etc., all in Darwin for the event. So for anyone interested in learning about contemporary Aboriginal art it is the time to visit Darwin. Please let people know."

NB: This is not the international tapestry conference planned by the Victorian Tapestry Workshop that will come 'round in 2008 in Melbourne; we will keep you posted on that event as announcements are made.

Planning ahead?

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Selling Yarns: Australian Indigenous textiles  
& good business in the 21st Century  
Supported by the ANU National Institute of the Humanities & Creative Arts, National  
Centre for Indigenous Studies and School of Art

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, The Theatrette, Darwin, N.T.  
Australia

13 - 14 August 2006

To coincide with the 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art  
Awards

Call for Conference/Workshop Participation

Building on traditional practice there was growing interest in textile production in Australian Indigenous communities as part of the contemporary craft movement from the 1960s. Traditions were re-evaluated and new techniques were introduced. The work sold through an increasing number of high quality craft shops and galleries. However, the climate for the crafts, politics and financial arrangements for communities have changed and Indigenous textiles struggle to survive.

What innovations in approach and practice are keeping textiles alive and what other measures can be put into place to assist the continuing development of Australian Indigenous textiles? In what ways can we improve the market place for Indigenous textiles? Where are the successful models? In the 21st Century how can Australian Indigenous textiles production survive?

Topics of interest include:

- \* The collaborative process
- \* The experience of the community art centre and art advisor
- \* The role of museums, galleries and collectors
- \* Issues associated with isolation
- \* Changes impacting on the industry - social/financial/political, tourism, fashion
- \* Marketing, Creative partnerships, Copyright
- \* Traditional art forms and new applications/adaptions and new techniques
- \* Indigenous intellectual property, copyright, moral rights and authenticity
- \* Experience of Indigenous cultures internationally

Keynote Speaker: Richard West, National Museum of the American Indian

Papers. We invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous practitioners, researchers & academics, buyers & collectors, curators, business and arts advisors to respond with a 300 word abstract addressing the conference themes.

Workshop. There will be a series of workshops to showcase Indigenous textiles production on Saturday 12 August 2006 in Darwin. This event will encourage informal exchange, sharing of ideas and approaches to textiles between makers, buyers, galleries and the broader community.

Presenters should submit Abstracts for the Conference and expressions of interest in the workshops to e-mail: nihca@anu.edu.au

Deadline for abstracts/expressions of interest in the workshops 1 December 2005

Notification of acceptance 15 December 2005

Deadline for full papers 15 February 2006

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The GFR Center fosters the creative practice and cultural study of handwoven tapestries, used worldwide from prehistory to the present-day.

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Please share this information with others with similar interests, and visit our website at [www.tapestrycenter.org](http://www.tapestrycenter.org)

[The last GFR Center Listserv Bulletin was sent on 8/17/05]