

Art Gallery of WA and FTI team up to preserve WA's Indigenous Art

Two projects designed to assist Indigenous West Australians preserve and maintain ownership of their culture have joined together to film interviews with leading Indigenous artists from the Kimberley.

The Art Gallery of WA's (AGWA) *Desert River Sea: Kimberley Art Then & Now* is a six-year research program to map current and emerging Kimberley Aboriginal art practices.

The program is supported by principal corporate partner Rio Tinto.

The *Indigenous Community Stories* program, managed by FTI, uses high-definition digital video technology and professional film crews to create and preserve detailed records of the cultural practices and important historical accounts of WA's Indigenous people. ICS is supported by founding partner ScreenWest and principal partner Rio Tinto.

The partnership will see the *Indigenous Community Stories* film crew, led by Indigenous director Jub Clerc, interview artists from Waringarri, Warmun and Yarlilyi Arts Centres in the Kimberley. Artists including Rusty Peters, Rosie Lala, Tiny McHale, Peggy Griffiths and Ben Ward, will recall their lives, their artistic careers and their relationship with the art centres profiled. Each interview will create 8-10 hours of footage, which will be archived at AIATSIS in Canberra, FTI in the State Library of WA, and copies sent to the Story Owners.

Both the *Desert River Sea* program and *Indigenous Community Stories* are significant in that they employ strict cultural protocols, copyright and IP management principles to ensure the Indigenous artists / story owners retain all rights to their work or recordings. The separate projects also share the intent to archive the cultural collateral for the use of future generations.

FTI CEO, Paul Bodlovich said the partnership would help increase the profile of both Indigenous initiatives and bring many benefits to the participants.

"Since its inception in 2008, ICS has recorded 65 stories, and is on track to reach a benchmark of 100 stories by the end of 2016. Through this partnership, FTI will be able to connect with more Indigenous communities in the Kimberley region to record their stories to be passed onto future generations."

Lynne Hargreaves, AGWA Director of Exhibitions & Collections, agreed that the pilot program would bring together the two institutions with different organisational strengths and common goals.

"*Desert River Sea* is the most significant Indigenous visual arts and cultural project undertaken by AGWA. The project's present focus is on documenting the region's current and emerging arts practice for sharing through desertriversea.com.au. This pilot program will enable AGWA to capture and celebrate the region's culture in a very accessible, high quality visual format."

More information on the *Desert River Sea* initiative can be found here artgallery.wa.gov.au

Community organisations and individuals wanting more information about FTI's Indigenous Community Stories program can do so at <https://www.fti.asn.au/make/icstories> or email: info@icstories.com.au or by calling FTI on (08) 9431 6700.

Indigenous Community Stories is administered by FTI and proudly supported by:



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