The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF) celebrates the rich cultural and artistic diversity of Australia’s Indigenous Art Centres. The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation Ltd is a non-for-profit Indigenous organisation, and is owned and governed by the Art Centres it represents.

From the 11-13 August 2017, DAAF celebrated its 11th Anniversary. It showcased the work of emerging and established artists from 67 Indigenous Art Centres from across Australia. These Art Centres collectively represented some 2,000 Aboriginal artists at the fair.

DAAF is the only national event of its kind and has secured a reputation as one of the country’s most significant and internationally recognised arts events. The fair showcases a spectacular diversity of artwork and provides visitors with a genuine opportunity to meet Indigenous artists, performers, and Arts Workers who have travelled to Darwin from some of the most remote regions of Australia.

DAAF is a three-day event that connects both new and seasoned audiences directly with artists and staff from the participating Art Centres. A huge range of styles and media and available to purchase including paintings on canvas, bark paintings, works on paper (including limited edition prints), sculpture, didgeridoos, fibre art and cultural regalia direct from the Art Centres. DAAFF ensures that 100% of all sales generated at the fair goes back to support the Art Centre’s communities.

DAAF also provides a range of interactive educative experiences through a strong public program consisting of presentations, artists workshops, traditional dancing and children’s activity stations. DAAFF also produces a fashion show, panel discussion and film gala as part of its annual program.

DAAFF is owned and operated by a membership of Indigenous Art Centres and its mission is to encourage the production of Aboriginal arts and assist with its promotion in an ethical business environment. DAAFF is committed to professional development opportunities for artists and Arts Workers, and to continually contribute to the cultural aspirations of the Art Centres.
The 2017 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair was, once again, a huge success and we would like to share some of our 11th Anniversary’s incredible achievements:

- **DAAF hosted a record 67 participating Art Centres** from across Australia at the Darwin Convention Centre. The exhibition halls were alive with colour, culture, stories and artworks.

- **DAAF generated a record $2.224 million in 2017** for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art sector - 100% of the sales went directly back to the Art Centres and their communities. Over the past five years, DAAF has generated over $8.825 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art sector.

- **Over 277 Indigenous artists and Arts Workers** attended the 2017 Fair and interacted with the public.

- In 2017, DAAF achieved 98 pieces of editorial coverage, with coverage providing more than **12,290,973 opportunities for people to see messaging** relating to DAAF. This coverage equated to an equivalent advertising value of $1,602,246.

- **Over 10,683 people visited DAAF in 2017.** Over the past five years, more than 40,000 visitors have attended DAAF.

- Northern Territory launch of the “Namatjira Project” at the DAAFF Film at the Deckchair Cinema on the 19th August. The evening included live music a watercolour masterclass with the Namatjira family, and a panel discussion concluded the evening.

- **DAAF’s 2017 public program included four cultural dance performances** from different regions of Australia including the Kimberley (Waringarri Dancers), Arnhem Land Region (Red Flag Dancers) and the One Mob Different Country Performers which had representatives from Arnhem Land and Katherine regions.

- In 2017, 91% of visitors said that they learnt something new about Indigenous culture at the Fair and 21% of visitors had never purchased a piece of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander art sector art before coming to the Fair.

- **13 artist workshops** that were presented at both DAAF and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory as well as a children’s activity station.

- **DAAFF hosted its second panel discussion which acknowledged that 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum (granting Indigenous peoples the right to be counted as Australians for the first time) and the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Mabo High Court judgement - two ‘watershed moments’ in Indigenous-Australian life and history.** To celebrate these two significant anniversaries the DAAFF panel discussion interrogated the question: “What impact have these two defining moments had, on contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art?” The event was held on August 11th and the panellists included Marcia Langton AM, Djon Mundine OAM, Mervyn Street and Gail Mabo. Franchesca Cubillo moderated the discussion.

- **“From Country to Couture” - the DAAFF Fashion Show combined the talents of 14 Indigenous Art Centres** who worked with eight different designers. They created incredible collections that showcased the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander textile design in a high-energy catwalk production. The show was headed by East Arnhem Land’s Magnolia Maymuru, Grace Lilian Lee did a stunning job in her role as the Creative Director and Indigenous hip hop DJ, Jimblah, brought the show to life with his eclectic tunes!

- **Hosting of the inaugural DAAFF Indigenous Curators Program and Symposium.** This pilot program welcomed 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curators (both from public institutions and independent) to come together and discuss the future of the industry, as well as mentoring and working with the Art Centres at the DAAF event.

For all the fashion show highlights, please visit: [daaf.com.au/fashion](http://daaf.com.au/fashion)
For more information, please contact: [info@darwinaboriginalarttfair.com.au](mailto:info@darwinaboriginalarttfair.com.au)

**SAVE THE DATE!**
**12th DARWIN ABORIGINAL ART FAIR**
**10-12 August 2018**