



Art Gallery of South Australia appoints its first Indigenous curator

Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, Christopher Menz today announced the appointment of **NICI CUMPSTON** to the newly-created position of Assistant Curator of Australian Art. This three-year trainee curator position has been funded by the State Government, and will be the Gallery's first to focus primarily on Indigenous Australian art.

"I am very pleased that Nici Cumpston will be joining the curatorial team at the Art Gallery of South Australia" said Menz. "Ms Cumpston will bring diverse experience to this exciting new role as an Indigenous woman, artist and academic" he said.

Adelaide-based Nici Cumpston is currently Lecturer in Photography and Indigenous Arts, Cultures and Design at the South Australian School of Art within the University of South Australia. She lectured in photography at Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, Port Adelaide from 1996 to 2006. She is currently a member of the Australia Council's National Indigenous Arts Reference Group. A respected artist, Ms Cumpston is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Victoria, South Australian Museum and Flinders University Art Museum, among others. She was awarded a Bachelor of Visual Arts with Honours in 2004.

This will be Nici Cumpston's first position as a curator, and builds on her experience assisting with research, display and logistics for a number of Indigenous art exhibitions around Australia in recent years.

Cumpston will work under the guidance of the Gallery's Curator of Australian Paintings & Sculpture, Tracey Lock-Weir, and with Assistant Curator, Rebecca Andrews to develop specialist expertise on the Gallery's extensive collection of Indigenous art.

Nici Cumpston will commence as Assistant Curator of Australian Art on Monday 3 March. One of her first projects will be to coordinate the exhibition, *Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial* which is travelling to Adelaide from the National Gallery of Australia in June.

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