

Media Release

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Noongar Dolls star at the 3rd Tamworth Textile Triennial

The art of telling Noongar stories through the creation of hand-made dolls will be shared with Aboriginal women on the other side of Australia as part of the Tamworth Textile Triennial, which showcases the best of contemporary Australian textile art.

Community Arts Network (CAN) was invited to be a part of the prestigious event following the overwhelming success of its Noongar doll making programs in the Southern Wheatbelt.

Acclaimed Noongar artist Sharyn Egan and emerging textile artist Marcelle Riley will travel to Tamworth this weekend to host doll making workshops in the lead-up to the Triennial.

The Noongar doll makers were invited by Aboriginal women from the Gomeri nation who saw the Noongar dolls touring during Museum of Contemporary Art's *string theory* exhibition.

CAN has a long and proud tradition of supporting the Noongar doll makers from the Wheatbelt.

The doll making workshops began in Narrogin in the 80's with workshops led by Nalda Searles and Mary Pantjiti McLean. Some of the dolls created toured to China and others were selected for national collections.

CAN revived the doll making tradition in 2010, working with the next generation of doll makers.

The dolls created during these workshops were exhibited at the WA Museum and then toured Australia as part of the MCA's Art's *string theory* exhibition.

Now they have inspired another community of doll makers to share their stories.

Sharyn and Marcelle will deliver workshops in Tamworth and Walgett until March 30. Selected works will be included in the Tamworth Textile Triennial in October this year.



About Community Arts Network (CAN)

CAN is an exciting and dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

Over the last thirty years CAN has been inspiring and mobilising WA communities who experience social disadvantage, to creatively express their unique stories through a diversity of art mediums.

Images: Textile artists, Sharyn and Marcelle Riley. Photo by CAN.

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