

MEDIA ALERT

Tuesday, 26 May 09

Artists receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

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Artsource honours two artists at the inaugural

Lifetime Achievement Awards for significant contributions to the visual arts:

Hans Arkeveld + Nalda Searles

[Artsource AGM - Wed 27 May, 2008]

Artists and distinguished guests will gather at the King St Arts Centre in Perth on Wednesday night to pay tribute to two senior West Australian artists at the first Artsource awards of this kind. Artsource and the artists are honoured that the Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael AC, will present the Awards.

The Board of Artsource considered the breadth of experience and the generous gift of imagination made by WA senior visual arts and craft practitioners, and especially those who, Jude van der Merwe Executive Director Artsource, describes as, "fly under the radar".

Jude explains, "Both Hans Arkeveld and Nalda Searles have demonstrated unerring commitment, integrity and excellence in the development of their art practice over the last 40 years and have made extraordinary, long term contributions to the culture of this state. They have also generously shared their knowledge with so many - students, artists, communities here and abroad."

Hans and Nalda will both receive a Life Membership to Artsource and a specially commissioned trophy presented at the ceremony following the Artsource AGM.

It is Artsource's intention that these Awards will be granted annually to an artist who has had a sustained practice achieving excellence in their chosen field for over 20 years. The practice can be derived from any aspect of the visual arts. In the first two years, the Award/s will be determined by the Board through an internal nomination and discussion process by Board and senior staff. Artsource sees the development of an award as one way to advance the profile of visual artists and to develop greater professionalism and pride within the sector.

Jude says "We were so overwhelmed by the enormously positive response to our nomination of Tony Jones as WA Citizen of the Year in 2008, that we realised that there was a need for Artsource to more regularly acknowledge the contribution of artists in our community, and in particular within the industry, the art sector. Western Australia currently has no system of awards to recognise lifetime contribution of significant visual artists. This is unlike many professions where such awards are built into their industry."

Artsource is Western Australia's leading representative body for visual artists, delivering support, advocacy and critical programs to advance the sustainability and profile of visual artists. Artsource receives funds from the State of Western Australia through the Department of Culture and the Arts in association with Lotterywest and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

For more information about Artsource and its activities See: www.artsource.net.au

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