

MEDIA RELEASE

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CAPO 28 Opens With A Leading Arts Voice NAVA Executive Director comes to Canberra

The Capital Arts Patrons Organisation (CAPO) has invited leading cultural commentator and arts advocate, Tamara Winikoff, Executive Director of the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), to launch CAPO 28's public program on Friday, 18 November at the National Archives of Australia.

Ms Winikoff will speak from 12.30pm – 1.15pm about how NAVA, the peak body representing the professional interests of the Australian visual arts, craft and design sector, helps artists throughout Australia through its programs including grants, publications and professional development opportunities.

Involved in the arts industry for thirty years, Tamara is well known in Australia as a cultural commentator, advocate and senior arts manager. She has spoken and written extensively about cultural and design issues. She was awarded the Australia Council for the Arts' Visual Arts and Craft Emeritus Medal in 2004.

"CAPO is pleased that Tamara Winikoff is able to come to Canberra to start this week-long arts dialogue complementing this year's exhibition and auction," Neil Doody, CAPO President says. "We have designed an accompanying Floor Talks program to engage the community in conversations that inform them about contemporary arts practices and the value of art investments. This presentation gives our artists and others in the community the opportunity to hear from NAVA's Executive Director about their programs and work on behalf of artists in Australia".

"Tamara Winikoff also will be our guest speaker at the VIP function we hold for arts supporters, sponsors and patrons before our auction of donated artworks. As a national cultural policy is being considered by government and discussed around Australia, it is timely that Tamara will talk about what this means for our artists and the wider Australian community," adds Mr Doody.

Ms Winikoff says, "Especially in volatile times, we need to keep asking questions about what artists are up to and why they should be supported. The nation's capital is a good place to reflect on what these soothsayers are trying to tell us about our blind spots."

Over 70 artists have donated to the 2011 CAPO exhibition and their works will be auctioned on Saturday, 26 November. Works include multimedia, photography, painting, printmaking, drawing, jewellery, lighting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics and glass. This year's exhibition includes works from Robert Boynes and Patsy Payne, Hamilton Darroch, Anna Eggert, Cinnamon Lee, Mike Parr, Ruth Waller and Michael LeGrand.

CAPO is a non-profit organisation and all proceeds are directed to the local arts community through grants and fellowships. CAPO is generously supported by donations from Canberra's artists and leading businesses.

Interviews can be arranged

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