

Media Release

For immediate release

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Artists benefit from royalty payments for works in television and film

Sydney, Australia:- Copyright owners in artistic works are benefiting when their works are included in film and television broadcasts in Australia and New Zealand.

\$238,000 in royalties was distributed by Screenrights in May and June representing payments for the use of artistic works in programs broadcast since 2002. \$230,000 was paid to artists under the Australian Educational Service and \$8,000 paid to artists under the New Zealand Educational Service.

Screenrights pays royalties for the use of paintings, drawings, engravings, sculptures, photographs and other works of artistic craftsmanship.

Emma Rogers, Screenrights Member Services Executive, has overseen the distribution. " It is extremely pleasing to process such substantial royalty payments for artists. It is important that the value of the use of artistic works in audiovisual works is both recognised and remunerated."

Speaking in Sydney today, Anthony Wallis from the Aboriginal Artists Agency said "we really congratulate Screenrights for their work in ensuring this important source of income is flowing easily and efficiently to a significant number of indigenous artists across the country. We operate a service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to create income from reproduction of works of art and are able to provide this service because over 300 individual artists have chosen to licence us to control their copyright.

"Many of our clients are amongst the very poorest of Australians and any money which simply accrues to them as part of a statutory right is doubly useful. By contrast all other sources of income, for example such as copyright fees from book publishers must be negotiated and collected. Screenrights money arrives like magic, generated by a sophisticated system of which AAA is an element.

"Looking at the economic future for indigenous artists Screenrights income is becoming an increasingly important component," Anthony Wallis said.

Sculptor and former head of Sculpture at the ANU Michael Le Grand said, "the monies received from Screenrights came as a great surprise. Sculpture is often overlooked and quite often provides the media with an exciting and interesting backdrop for interviews etc. Rarely does the media acknowledge the work or the sculptor who made it.

"The efforts of Screenrights in providing me with adequate remuneration for the continued use of images of my sculpture acknowledges the value of my work as a practising artist and I am very pleased with this outcome."

In announcing the distribution today Screenrights Chief Executive Simon Lake said "Screenrights works closely with the film and television industries and the arts community to ensure that the valuable input of artists into a wide variety of programs is recognised and rewarded."

Sculptor Stephen Trethewey "to have royalties passed on through another branch of the arts gives me an enormous sense of community and a great feeling of support and protection from the arts community as a whole. The payment was not just of financial importance, but was also a much-needed validation of my arts practice. Moreover, the payment of royalties for the use of ones work is an acknowledgement of the important role the arts play in society."



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