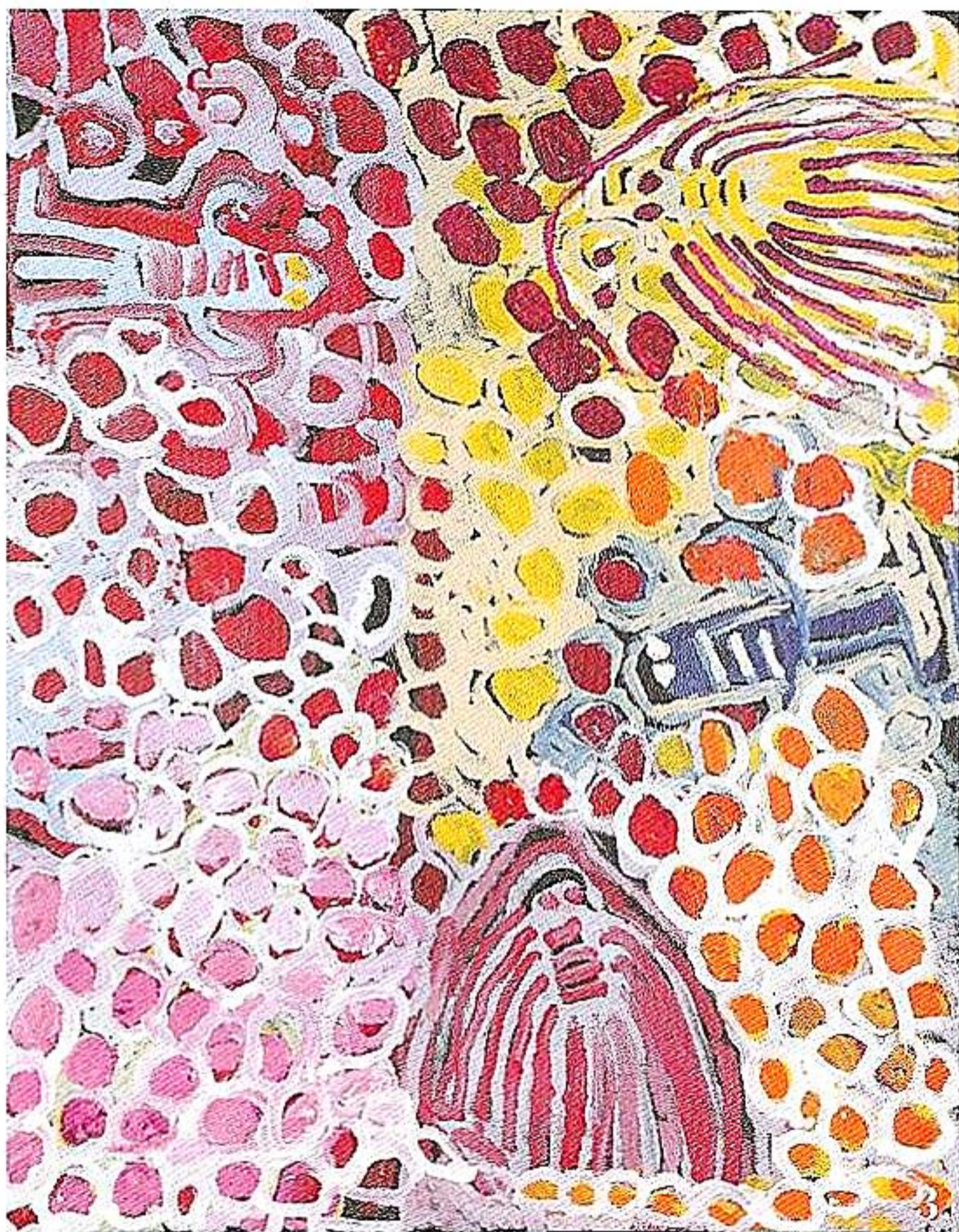


# Destination Darwin

Darwin is the destination of choice for August. **Beatrice Spence** takes a look what the city has in store for visitors.



1.

Amic Siegel, *Winter* (video still), 2013. Super 16mm transferred to HD video, colour, sound, performance. The Auckland Triennial Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, purchased 2013.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND AUCKLAND ART GALLERY, AUCKLAND

2.

Angelica Mesiti, *Citizens Band* (video still), 2012. Four channel video installation, high definition video, 16:9, PAL, surround sound, 21 min 25 sec.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND ANNA SCHWARTZ, SYDNEY

3.

Harry Tjutjuna, *Wanka*, 2012. Acrylic on linen, 153 x 122cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND NINUKU ARTS, ALICE SPRINGS

August sees Darwin come alive with the Darwin Festival held from 8 to 25 August, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAAs) opening on the 9 August and the Darwin Art Fair also being held from 9 to 11 August.

The Darwin Festival was originally called the Bougainvillea Festival when it launched in 1978 as a sign of a resilient, proud and resourceful community after Cyclone Tracy. In 2003, it became Darwin Festival and has grown to attract audiences of close to 100,000 people.

Held at the Darwin Convention Centre the Darwin Art Fair has over 40 stands at the fair, all run by Aboriginal owned art centres with works by both emerging and established artists available for purchase. In conjunction with the fair and NATSIAAs, leading commercial galleries present Aboriginal and non-indigenous art exhibitions, which are also worth a visit. Outstation Gallery will be presenting

a survey show from the APY Lands. Opening on Saturday 10 August it will showcase artworks from seven art centres. Outstation's director, **Matt Ward** comments, "this exhibition will demonstrate why artists from this region have become some of the most collectible artists in Australia."

The NATSIAAs **Jane Raffan**, director of ArtiFacts Art Services, notes: "The NATSIAAs are a highlight on the Indigenous art calendar for collectors and consultants alike. It's always interesting to see which new talents have made the cut. This year's judging panel includes artist **Destiny Deacon**, who is both precocious and unpredictable, so I'm looking forward to seeing the final selection. Recently, with the number of finalists reduced dramatically from 200 to around 60, it has become a bit safe - more of a who's who of high profile talent - but mingling with the crowds on the museum lawns while the sun sets over Fanny Bay is worth the trip alone."