Marina Strocchi, Brancusi Palm 2007, etching edn 20 (Workshop Proof), 46 x 25.5cm [paper], 29.5 x 9.5cm [image], gifted by Northern Editions, 2007, CDU1609

Therese Ritchie, Johnny Balaiya, Casuarina Beach, Darwin 2004, digital print on paper edn 3/3, 44 x 120cm [image + paper], acquired 2005, CDU1254
On the eve of the Charles Darwin University Art Collection’s 30th anniversary, **Prelude** marks the opening of the new Chancellery Building, Orange 12 on Casuarina Campus, with an exhibition held in the Collection’s first dedicated and purpose-built gallery space.

Designed to display exhibitions drawn from the Collection’s permanent holdings and touring shows which complement the Collection’s profile, the gallery will also function as a project space for local and remote area contemporary artists – and those inspired by North Australia and neighbouring regions – to exhibit their work.

A permanent cultural asset approaching 2000 objects, the University Art Collection responds to the institution’s mission and objectives, namely: teaching and learning, research, community engagement and access. As the third largest public collection of art in the Territory, it plays a key role in regional development, focusing on the acquisition of work by established and emerging Australian Indigenous, non-Indigenous and Southeast Asian artists inspired by or with a connection to the Northern Territory and adjoining regions, including Southeast Asia.

More than a storehouse of treasures, the Charles Darwin University Art Collection is also a living repository: a vast and delicate web of connections between people and places in this part of the continent, spanning the life of the Territory’s first tertiary institution of learning and the communities it serves. Welcome to its new home.