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**Media Release**

10 October 2019

### Paintings by George Tjungurrayi Ward

The Courthouse Gallery+Studio is excited to showcase the first solo exhibition of recent works by senior desert artist George Tjungurrayi Ward, opening 18 October, 6-8 pm.

The Honourable Fred Reibeling and Stephen Dawson MLC will open the exhibition, alongside the launch of the Courthouse Gallery+Studio stockroom collection.

Gallery+Studio exhibition coordinator Elisa Trifunoski was first introduced to Mr Ward's story and drawn to his painting at this year's Darwin Art Fair,

"I instantly knew that Mr Ward would be the perfect artist for the first solo painting exhibition at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio.

"His paintings share the Dreamtime story of his ancestral elders traveling from Port Hedland to the northern part of the central desert, a breathtaking opportunity for Hedlanders to further understand the history of this region.

Mr Ward currently resides and paints from Warakurna Artists located on Ngaanyatjarra Lands, Western Australia.

Art centre manager, Bianca Cadd says,

"There are limited regional galleries willing and able to represent emerging indigenous artists, George is honoured to have a solo exhibition at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio, and share his unique story.

This will be The Junction Co.'s first indigenous exhibition as new managers of the Courthouse Gallery+Studio facility, Chairperson Miranda Cecich notes,

"This solo exhibition of George Tjungurrayi Ward marks the beginning of The Junction Co.'s strong commitment to support and showcase indigenous artists in regional communities.

Exhibition open 18 October – 21 December 2019 at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio.