

# MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 3 April 2018

## **Tuggeranong Arts Centre to launch Mural Project: Home Is Where the Heart Is**

On Friday 6 April, ACT Arts Minister Gordon Ramsay will officially unveil Tuggeranong Arts Centre's Mural Project, *Home Is Where the Heart Is*.

This year's project was inspired by Canberra stencil artist Luke Cornish (ELK), whose artwork is on display in the Centre's Foyer Gallery until 29 April. ELK's practice has taken him to war-torn Aleppo, where he worked with children who were left to play in the rubble of their former homes.

Working with internationally acclaimed graffiti artist Matthew Peet (aka Mistery) and local artist James Small (aka Smalls), young people from the area will spend a week deconstructing the idea of 'your place', home and what it means to lose your home.

The completed mural will symbolise the lives of millions of children who currently live amongst rubble, in crowded camps and under the stars due to war.

Engaging with young people who have an interest in street art has been a strength of the Tuggeranong Arts Centre over the past three years. In 2016, TAC and the Messengers Program worked with Mistery to produce a new mural for the amenities block at Kippax Shops and as part of laneway rejuvenation activities in the Tuggeranong town centre. Since street art programs were introduced, there has been a noticeable reduction in the amount of graffiti left on the Arts Centre and surrounding buildings.

Media are invited to attend the launch and meet the contributing artists.

### **Where:**

Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 137 Reed Street, Greenway ACT 2900

### **When:**

4:00PM, Friday 6 April

### **Who:**

*Mistery (Matthew Peet):* A breakdancer, rapper/MC and graffiti artist, Mistery has been working and influencing street culture locally and abroad since the early 1980s. As a professional artist he has executed numerous commissions for clients including Sony, Coke, Disney, Mad Magazine and Samsung. His works range from graphic design to illustration, cartooning to fine art and mega murals. To date he has worked in approximately 20 countries. His community work has seen many legal spaces established for young artists. He has remained a spokesperson for the aerosol medium and continues to promote its validity to government and community organisations. Mistery is also the founder of Krosswerdz Australia, a community of diverse Christians who have been injecting faith into hip-hop culture since 2006.

*Smalls (James Small):* Smalls is a Canberra based artist. He has tried his hand at every medium from oils to pencils, brushes to stencils; but found his true calling with the aerosol can in 2007. Today he is pushing his art harder than ever, carving a name for himself into the walls of the street art scene. He creates mass scale works in a uniquely broad range of styles but never compromises the use of bold colour, precision and style.