

Art to make mark in Paris



Artist Ningura Napurrula poses with one of her artworks in Sydney. She is one of eight Indigenous artists whose work has been specially commissioned for the new Musee du quai Branly in Paris. Full report on Page 5

Artwork hits wall in France



The works of eight Indigenous Australians will permanently adorn the walls of a French museum

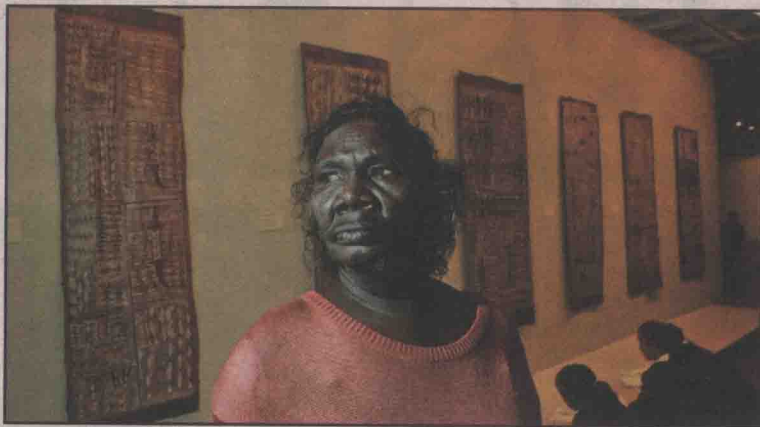
from this month.

The artists have been selected to submit their work to be shown at the Musee du quai Branly in Paris, which opens later this month.

While the museum will also house works from Africa, Asia and the Americas, the Australian Indigenous art commission, which will be officially unveiled by French President Jacques Chirac, is set to provide the museum's opening highlight.

"It's a unique commission. It's bigger than the Sistine Chapel and is the largest ever international commission of Australian Indigenous art," Australia Council for the Arts chief executive officer Jennifer Bott said.

"I think the commission will



Artist Gulumbu Yunupingu with one of her father's artworks in Sydney. Her works will be on the wall of the new Paris museum.

show people from all over the world that Australian Aboriginal culture is contemporary, and that it's right here, right now.

"It's an extraordinary project and very exciting."

Ms Bott said Europeans often looked at Indigenous art out of

'historical curiosity', but did not necessarily consider its contemporary forms.

"This is a tribute to the oldest continuous culture on earth, and it exists in our country, so it's a great thing," she said.

The Musee du quai Branly will

be open 24 hours a day to the public.

Celebrated painter Gulumbu Yunupingu, who will have her award-winning piece 'Garuk, the Universe', on show, says her painting extends to all people, not just the Indigenous population.

"The painting is about the universe, which I call Garuk, and the link we have with all people, because everybody, be they yellow, black or white, can look up and see the stars," she said.

"I am happy and looking and forward to my work going over. It's very exciting."

The commission's co-curator, Hetti Perkins, said the work would hold its own on the world stage.

"I think it will be very favourably received. I think people will see it as an expression of what the Musee du quai Branly is all about," she said.

The exhibition is scheduled to open on June 23.