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## **PRESS RELEASE 11.4.16**

### **ANOTHER HONOUR FOR THE FAR NORTH**

As the first of David Attenborough's TV program on the Great Barrier Reef aired last night, an Aboriginal art book by a Cairns artist and author, Munganbana Norman Miller, and Adelaide based RenBro Publishing, is the proud recipient of a Bronze Medal from the internationally prestigious and globally recognized Independent Publisher Book Awards – IPPY Awards 2016. The book's Bronze Medal has been awarded under the IPPY's National Category of Multicultural Non-fiction Adult which is for the overall medalists and includes entrants from UK, US, Aus/NZ, and Europe. This is an outstanding achievement for Munganbana as a longstanding artist of note.

"It was a dream come true to have a book of my art work published," said Munganbana, "and to receive an international award is a wonderful feeling. Renbro Publishing did an outstanding job and my wife Barbara's support and editing was a great help."

The full colour coffee table book, "Reef and Rainforest: an Aboriginal Voice Through Art and Story", features over 200 pieces of Munganbana's art work recording over 25 year of his prolific artistic output. The art work and the accompanying stories features the natural wonders of two world heritage areas – the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics.

"What is remarkable about it," said Munganbana, "is that I have stories that go with each painting that depict my life growing up in the rainforest, my family, my culture and spirituality. It also has a brief history about Aboriginal people from the rainforest tribes and my work for reconciliation. I am from the Jirrbal, Bar-barrum and Tableland Yidinji tribes."

It is the 20th annual Independent Publisher Book Awards and award winners appear for a year on the website, [www.IndependentPublisher.com](http://www.IndependentPublisher.com). As well, winning medallists are featured in the IPPY monthly newsletter, which reaches over 15,000 subscribers worldwide, many of whom are agents, buyers, and librarians.

"I have just come back from a book launch in Sydney on 4 February at Courage to Care and a book signing at NSW Parliament on 29 March as well as events in Melbourne and Canberra to showcase my book," said Munganbana.

"Reef and Rainforest: An Aboriginal Voice through Art and Story" was originally launched in Cairns in September 2015 by Mayor Bob Manning at the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. Perhaps Cairns could be better known as a "City in a Rainforest." Through his award-winning book, Munganbana is well placed to be an Indigenous ambassador for tourism for Far North Queensland, Australia.

Signed

Munganbana Norman Miller



**31. MULTICULTURAL NON-FICTION ADULT**

**GOLD:** *The Journey of "A Good Type": From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs*, by David Odo (Peabody Museum Press)

**SILVER:** *Different Roots, Common Dreams: New Hampshire's Cultural Diversity*, by Becky Field (Peter E. Randall Publisher)

**BRONZE (tie):** *Taught by Life: Art and Stories*, by Roosevelt Lewis, Jr. (Court Street Press)

**Reef and Rainforest: An Aboriginal Voice Through Art and Story**, by Mungabana Norman Miller (RenBo Publishing)