

**[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]**

## **Virginia Rigney Wins Prestigious Gallery and Museum State Award**

**Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ)** proudly announced the winners of the **2013 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by Museum of Brisbane on Friday 22 November 2013. Special guest, Hon Ian Walker, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with specially commissioned trophies created by artists, Theresa Beeron, John Murray, Charlotte Beeron and Ethel Murray, represented by Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre.

**Virginia Rigney**, Senior Curator, Gold Coast City Gallery, was **recognised for her outstanding achievement** in the **category of 'Individuals: Paid'**.

Over the past ten years, **Virginia has actively championed the Gold Coast**, making visible its unique character and visual culture **through innovative exhibitions, public programs, writing and digital platforms**, and engaging the community in these stories by linking the Gold Coast City Gallery's programs to events, such as festivals.

Virginia has also been a strong advocate of professional development and strives to build links between practitioners and the creative industries and business sector by developing partnerships and multi-level engagement with the community.

In declaring **Virginia Rigney the winner** in this category, **the judges commended her excellent standards of exhibition practice and curatorship and high-quality programming**. The judges also acknowledged Virginia's **commitment to education** and professional development, playing a significant mentorship role in working with young and emerging curators and artists.

Virginia Rigney said

'It's an exciting time to be working within such a dynamic profession and I've particularly enjoyed working with the Gold Coast Community on a number of projects. Thank you to M&GSQ and my colleagues, and for this acknowledgement.'

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland, the **GAMAA** celebrate the **outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector**. It also recognises the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&GSQ Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2013 GAMAA and commends all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year's awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects.'

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&GSQ website at [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au).

**In 2013, the GAMAA celebrates its tenth anniversary.** To mark the occasion, a special one-night-only exhibition of past GAMAA trophies will be displayed at the Museum of Brisbane.

The 2013 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are presented by M&GSQ in partnership with Museum of Brisbane and proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting, Brandi Projects, Archival Survival, Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council its arts funding and advisory body. ABN 32 109 874 811