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Warwick Art Gallery Director, Karina Devine, Honoured in Queensland Gallery and Museum Awards

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly announced the Winners of the **2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event hosted by The University of Queensland Art Museum on Thursday 19 November 2015. This year's award Winners were presented with an exquisite trophy specially created for the event by Queensland artist Madeleine Brown.

Karina Devine, Gallery Director of the **Warwick Art Gallery** was announced **Joint Winner** in recognition of her outstanding achievement in the category of 'Individuals—Paid'.

In awarding Karina a Joint Winner of this category, the **GAMAA judges acknowledged her outstanding contribution to the arts in regional Queensland.**

In her 10 years as Gallery Director of the Warwick Art Gallery, Karina Devine in her quiet and humble way has delivered excellent and innovative artistic outcomes to the Warwick community and beyond. Her approach is underpinned by hard work and dedication and a strong belief in the value of collaboration, equity and planning for sustainability.

As well as the delivery of a well-planned annual program of diverse exhibitions for the Gallery, Karina is the Creative Director of Warwick's *Jumpers & Jazz in July Festival*. For the past 10 years she has injected life, passion, enthusiasm and opportunity into this unique and quirky platform for the arts in the community.

Karina's spirit of collaboration with community groups and businesses also shines. She has the ability to motivate the amateur to the professional and to deliver art that is truly inspiring and conversation-provoking. She also has a talent in securing grants and sponsorship to enable creative dreams to become audience realities as demonstrated by the *Portraits of a Tea Cosy*

touring exhibition, which was initiated by the Gallery and toured to national venues from 2013 to 2015.

Karina is a great example of a Gallery Director elevating her community's cultural capacity and appreciation from that of a conservative agricultural community to one of sophistication and innovation in the realm of textile art.

Karina gave thanks to the selection panel for honouring her with this award.

"I am truly humbled by the excellent work of my fellow nominees and that makes this award even more special to me," she said.

"Our sector always has its challenges but it is very rare to come across anyone working in the arts who is not passionate and obsessively dedicated. The challenges can sometimes seem impossible to master when you work in the country, even more so when there are economic or political issues that directly impact our operations and partnerships. But I am immensely grateful for the opportunities I have had in working for regional art galleries for the past 20 years."

"I feel supported on a daily basis at my work by my staff, volunteers, partners in crime and collaborators. I would like to thank the community of Warwick for their support. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of the staff of Museums & Galleries Queensland and thank the GAAMA sponsors—Brian Tucker, Museums Australia and the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland."

Presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland, the **GAMAA celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector.** It also recognises the valuable contribution that 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&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "It is with great pleasure that M&G QLD congratulates the winners and finalists of the 2015 GAMAA. We commend 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&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

The 2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards were presented by M&G QLD and generously



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supported by The University of Queensland Art Museum. The GAMAA are proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting. We also acknowledge the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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