

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

## **GOLD COAST CITY GALLERY Recognised at State Awards**

The strength, ingenuity and talents of Queensland's public galleries and museums were triumphantly demonstrated tonight with the announcement of the winners of the **2017 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala presentation event, proudly hosted by Old Government House, QUT.

**Gold Coast City Gallery** was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its exhibition ***Signs of the Time***.

Exclusive to Gold Coast City Gallery, *Signs of the Time* was an exhibition of street art by world-renowned, national and local artists from the collection of Ken McGregor and an anonymous collector. The exhibition featured works by urban-art megastars, including Banksy and Bambi, Britain's best-known female street artist for her iconic Amy Winehouse portrait *Amy Jade*; the godfather of stencil art Blek Le Rat's statement self-portrait *The Man Who Walks Through Walls*; Iranian street artist A1One's anti-corporation work *East Resist*; and Swoon's social-struggle print *Milton*, inspired by 17th century English poet John Milton's epic *Paradise lost*, about the struggles of life. Combining wit with high technical skill, the selected artworks tackled poverty, war, injustice, the cult of celebrity, importance of place and the symbolism of animals.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "This exhibition was gritty and thought provoking. Being recognised as finalist in this category is testament to Gold Coast City Gallery's commitment to both challenge and inspire audiences and to expose them to multi-artforms."

In addition to the main exhibition, 32 different artists were given opportunities to showcase their work across the *Signs of the Time* activations. These artists came from a diverse range of disciplines including visual artists, street dancers and choreographers, live musicians and DJs,

photographers, musicians and interdisciplinary live performance artists.

Ms Butler said, "This year's winners and finalists stood out from an exceptional group of nominations. These accolades embody outstanding examples of our sector's achievements, professional excellence, and innovation. They also highlight the valuable contribution and achievements of professionals and volunteers working in our industry."

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our state's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

Winners of the 2017 GAMAA received an exquisite trophy crafted by Queensland artist, Lincoln Austin. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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