

ENRICHING THE CULTURAL LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery**, one of nine museums and galleries from Southern Inland Queensland who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their existing practices and policies against the **National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries**.

Reviewers, Susi Muddiman and Elizabeth Bates, who play a vital role in providing professional advice and assistance throughout the program, free of charge, congratulated the **Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery** saying,

'Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery is advanced in a number of key areas of gallery practice due to the commitment of staff, committee members and volunteers. The Gallery's willingness to undertake the Standards Program is to be commended.'

Opened in November 1987, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery came into being from the hard work and dedication of the Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery Society, created in 1972. The collection has been in constant development over the past 35 years and some key highlights include early works by Gordon Bennett, William Robinson, Suzanne Archer, David Rankin and David Aspden, with donations by Pamela Bell O.A.M and William Bowmore A.O. of works by Pablo Picasso, Charles Blackman, Margaret Olley and Sam Fullbrook.

The Gallery hosts exhibitions of both local and national importance and fosters a strong program of regional artist exhibitions and displays that are relevant to the history and character of the Granite Belt region.

Displays include those specially curated from the Region's wide-ranging permanent collection of traditional and contemporary paintings, works on paper, ceramics, sculpture, fibre and textile artworks. Many of this strong collection of noted artists' works are sourced from acquisitions made during the biennial Stanthorpe Art Festival.

The Gallery plays an important part in community life and has recently established an Arts Cinema to provide cinematic entertainment in Stanthorpe, by programming film and documentaries that appeal to an audience who enjoy the cinema as an art form.

Standards Program Reviewers praised **Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery** for their achievements emphasising that,

'Much work has been undertaken in assembling and storing the collection to professional standards, and now the organisation is moving into a new phase of educational and outreach activities and public programming.'

With the encouragement of the Standards Program, the Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery will pilot an outreach education program for primary school students, Prep to Year 7. This program will encourage lifelong learning by reaching primary-aged students, establishing a vital link with the cultural facility and its resources at a young age.

Debra Beattie, General Manager M&GSQ, commended Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery for their collaboration with Warwick Art Gallery to enrich the cultural life of their communities.

Justin Bishop, Director, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'We are developing programs to give the community a sense of ownership, with the aim of creating lifelong audiences for the gallery.'

In 2010 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in the Brisbane metro and surrounding regions.

Full program information is available at
http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=509

The Gallery profile and print quality images from the Gallery and the event are attached.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 - Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery receiving their certificate of recognition.

L-R: Debra Beattie, General Manager, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland – Justin Bishop, Director, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery.

Image 2 – William Robinson, Trotting Guernseys, 1980, Oil on Canvas

Acknowledgement - Southern Downs Regional Art Collection Gifted by the artist under the Cultural Gifts Program 2002 Courtesy of the Artist

Image 3 –Jon Molvig, Woman In Motion, 1956, Brush & ink on paper

Acknowledgement - Southern Downs Regional Art Collection Gifted By Ron & Diana Wigzell 1986 Courtesy the artist's estate

Image 4 – 'Southern Downs Regional Artists Exhibition 2009' opening 13 November 2009

Acknowledgement - Photo taken by F. Saumure, used with permission.

END RELEASE