

MEDIA RELEASE

17 July 2014

M&G QLD is the peak professional body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland, representing a network of more than 400 organisations across the State.

Museums & Galleries QLD launches international exhibition of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists

MEDIA PREVIEW: Friday 18 July 2014, 11:00am–12:30pm, Gold Coast City Gallery.

Interview and photo opportunities will be available with *Saltwater Country* artists: **Brian Robinson** and **Ken Thaiday** from Cairns, and **Ceferino Sabatino** and **Jimmy Thaiday**, who have travelled from their remote islands in the Torres Strait. High-resolution artwork images are available on request.

EXHIBITION will be opened by **Tony Grybowski**, CEO of the Australia Council for the Arts. Official opening Saturday 19 July, 3:00–5:00pm.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is pleased to announce the official launch of *Saltwater Country*, its major touring exhibition of contemporary Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, at Gold Coast City Gallery on Saturday 19 July 2014.

Curated by Michael Aird and Virginia Rigney, *Saltwater Country* showcases works by 16 of our State's acclaimed Indigenous artists. The works feature stories of historical, environmental and personal concerns, utilising these artists' strong cultural connections to their saltwater country – Queensland's coastline, sea and waterways.

M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said: "M&G QLD is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and *Saltwater Country* represents a major milestone for us as our first international touring exhibition.

"M&G QLD is pleased to be partnering with the Gold Coast City Gallery to bring this exciting, unique project to fruition. Projects like *Saltwater Country* highlight the great outcomes that can be achieved through collaborative partnerships."

Saltwater Country features critically acclaimed artists including Vernon Ah Kee, Fiona Foley, Michael Cook, Judy Watson, and the winner of the 2014 Bulgari Art Award, Daniel Boyd.

Saltwater Country opens at the Gold Coast City Gallery on Saturday 19 July 2014, where it will be exhibited until 31 August 2014.

From there M&G QLD will tour the exhibition to Washington DC in the United States where it will be exhibited at the Embassy of Australia, before moving to the Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, in the Netherlands in early 2015.

Saltwater Country returns to Australia in May 2015 to Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney and onto regional centres in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Each of the venues in the exhibition's national tour has a strong local culture around the sea, waterways and country.

Ends

For more information contact: Rebekah Butler 07 3215 0820 or 0422 579 180.



Saltwater Country is a travelling exhibition developed in partnership between Museums & Galleries Queensland and Gold Coast City Gallery. Curated by Michael Aird and Virginia Rigney. *Saltwater Country* is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory governments and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. This project has received financial assistance from the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts program.



Museums & Galleries Queensland is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, and is assisted 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