

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

Queensland Museum honoured at prestigious State Awards

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) proudly announced the winners of the **2012 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture, on Saturday 17 November. Special guest, Hon Ros Bates, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with a specially commissioned trophy created by Queensland artist, Donna Marcus.

The **Queensland Museum** was **recognised for its outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of 5 or more' for its ***Dressed by the Best: Fashion, Glamour and Gwen Gillam*** exhibition.

Showcasing the life and work of Brisbane fashion designer Gwen Gillam, *Dressed by the Best: Fashion, Glamour and Gwen Gillam* features a collection of 41 exquisite garments, objects and ephemera from the 1950s and 1960s. Based on then-current international couture, Gillam's contemporary and custom designs were popular with Queensland society women and positioned Gillam as a successful entrepreneur with a strong reputation for innovation, style and quality. The exhibition also includes garments inspired by Gillam created by two young professional designers, including Gwen's great niece, and two TAFE fashion design students.

In awarding the Queensland Museum a **Special Commendation**, the Judges commended the Museum for successfully attracting diverse and intergenerational audiences for the exhibition – women who wore Gillam's garments in the 1950s and 60s; Gillam's customers, friends and family; young people interested in vintage fashion; people with an historical interest in the period; and fashion, art and design students. The judges also recognised that this major exhibition provided a great opportunity to showcase and grow the State's textile collection.

Queensland Museum Network CEO, Dr Ian Galloway, said the award was a tribute to the successful collaboration between the Museum and the community to create a rich and meaningful experience as the Museum marks its 150th year of collecting and connecting.

'Sharing the life story of this iconic Brisbane fashion identity ignited a passionate response from those who knew Gwen, worked with her, were dressed by her or whose relatives or friends wore her designs,' Dr Galloway said.

'*Dressed by the Best: Fashion, Glamour and Gwen Gillam* touched a place in the heart of so many across Queensland and beyond who generously contributed their garments, stories and time to make this a truly inspirational experience for our museum visitors.'

'I'm incredibly proud of the museum team of staff and volunteers, guided by Curator Dr Michael Marendy, for bringing the whole experience to life through this outstanding exhibition and events like our Vintage Fashion Fair, 60's inspired sustainable furniture installation, curator floor talks, and a public Q&A with designers and people who worked with Gwen Gillam.'

Presented by **Museum and Gallery Services Queensland**, the GAMAA is a prestigious annual event designed to celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence and innovation of Queensland's museums and galleries. The Awards recognise the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honour the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

The Executive Director of Museum and Gallery Services Queensland, Rebekah Butler, said today

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2012 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 winners, go to the M&GSQ website at www.magsq.com.au

The 2012 GAMAA were proudly sponsored by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Brian Tucker Accountant, Brandi Projects, Archival Survival, Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.



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

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