

9/10/2026

HOTA GALLERY, HOME OF THE ARTS WINNER 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **HOTA Gallery, Home of the Arts** as the Winner in the **Projects: Organisations With 7+ FTE Paid Staff** category, for its exhibition ***Ken Done: No Rules*** at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

Now in their twenty-second year, the GAMAA are Queensland's premier awards program for the museum and gallery sector, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the State. Special guest, **Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented winners with individually crafted trophies by acclaimed Queensland glass artist **Jarred Wright**.

HOTA Gallery, Home of the Arts was named the winner in this category for its major survey exhibition ***Ken Done: No Rules***, a vibrant celebration of the life, work and creative philosophy of one of Australia's most recognisable artists.

Presented in collaboration with the Ken Done Gallery, the exhibition was inspired by Ken Done's belief that creative freedom comes from breaking conventions. Bringing together more than 70 artworks spanning four decades, alongside archival material, immersive exhibition design and a newly commissioned animation, ***Ken Done: No Rules*** offered audiences a comprehensive insight into the artist's enduring contribution to Australian visual culture.

Highlighting a career defined by optimism, experimentation and a lifelong commitment to painting, the exhibition was complemented by an extensive program of talks, workshops and educational activities. More than 1,200 students from 40 schools participated in the program, demonstrating the exhibition's strong engagement with learners and the broader community.

With broad public appeal and significant educational impact, ***Ken Done: No Rules*** reinforced HOTA's reputation for delivering ambitious, nationally significant exhibitions that connect audiences with celebrated Australian artists through innovative and accessible experiences.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, congratulated HOTA Gallery on its achievement, saying "***Ken Done: No Rules*** was a joyful and engaging exhibition that recognised a prominent Australian artist while creating meaningful opportunities for audiences of

all ages to engage with his creative processes. Through its ambitious scope, immersive presentation and strong educational focus, HOTA Gallery delivered a remarkable exhibition that demonstrates its capabilities in audience engagement and cultural leadership. We congratulate the team at HOTA on this well-deserved recognition.”

This year's awards attracted nominations from across the state, recognising excellence in exhibitions, public programs, collections management, First Nations and community engagement, leadership, innovation and volunteer contribution.

M&G QLD congratulates each of this year's winners, highly commended recipients and finalists. Their achievements exemplify the passion, creativity and commitment that continue to enrich Queensland's cultural landscape and inspire excellence across the sector.

ABOUT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QUEENSLAND

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional industry body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland.

Our purpose is to inspire and support excellence in Queensland museums, galleries and keeping places, fostering innovation, connection and cultural leadership.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 GAMAA SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The 2026 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Ipswich Art Gallery** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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