

14/12/2021

ARTSPACE MACKAY

Finalist at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2021 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland tonight, 14 December, at a special live-streamed presentation.

Artspace Mackay was recognised as a **Finalist** for its achievements in the category of Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project, ***Ron McBurnie: In Search of Arcadia artist-in-residence program***.

Located in North Queensland, **Artspace Mackay** is a premier regional gallery connecting and inspiring its local community and visitors to the region.

During 2019 and 2020, prominent North Queensland artist Ron McBurnie completed an extended artist residency with Artspace Mackay, capturing beloved landscapes and views of the Mackay region *en plein air* over several visits. In his search for landscapes to visit and to capture, Ron called upon the Mackay community to guide his quest by offering up recommendations of locations held dear. Daily Facebook posts from Ron diarised his *en plein air* adventures and called upon individuals to suggest more places to visit, draw and paint. Over a period of six one-week residencies, Ron created over 60 original works on paper for the culminating Artspace Mackay exhibition, *In Search of Arcadia*.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Artspace Mackay is to be congratulated for this unique project delivered during COVID-19. Instead of viewing the pandemic's disruptions negatively, Artspace Mackay embraced this period as an opportunity to enable Ron to work towards a major exhibition in 2021. During his six one-week residencies, Ron created over 60 original works on paper for the culminating show, *In Search of Arcadia*. This unique program delivered many beneficial outcomes for Artspace Mackay, Mackay Regional Council and the broader community including the development of a new partnership with Mackay Tourism to create an Artists' Trail brochure, which features Ron's original artworks and promotes places he visited during his residency."

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.

For the full list of GAMAA Winners and Finalists and to view the GAMAA presentation visit:

https://magsq.com.au/?page_id=5826.

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