

14/12/2021

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

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.

Queensland Museum was recognised as a **Finalist** for its achievements in the category of Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project ***I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland***.

The concept for *I Do! Wedding stories from Queensland* began as an idea to display wedding garments from Queensland Museum Network's (QMN) State Collection, but evolved into a survey of historical and contemporary Queensland life as QMN's curatorial team delved into the lived experiences and personal stories connected to the garments.

Cultural groups featured in the exhibition included Chinese, Hmong, Sikh, Greek, Lebanese, Fijian and First Nations Australians, in addition to a broad range of social perspectives from women and the LGBTIQ community. The suits worn by the first same-sex couple to be married in Queensland catalysed the curatorial concept to show wedding garments as tangible artefacts of Queensland's ever-evolving cultural landscape and the diverse communities within it.

The exhibition also led to QMN's first ever acquisitive artwork commission from First Nations artists Simone Arnol and Bernard Singleton. This wedding dress and accessories explored the difficult and suppressed histories of arranged weddings that took place on the Yarrabah Aboriginal mission in Queensland during the 20th century.

I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland was presented at Queensland Museum, South Bank, Brisbane from September 2020 to February 2021.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Queensland Museum is to be commended for this significant exhibition. Through the display and interpretation of 174 objects including 40 wedding ensembles, photographs, letters and accessories, the exhibition explored 180 years of changing customs and social dynamics through the wedding stories of more than 40 Queensland couples."

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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