

14/12/2021

UMBRELLA STUDIO CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Winner 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.

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project ***Legacy: Reflections on Mabo*** exhibition.

Legacy: Reflections on Mabo is a remarkable exhibition developed by Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts and was first presented in Townsville by Umbrella Studio in 2019. Significantly, it is Umbrella Studio's most extensive national touring exhibition to date, travelling to 9 venues across Australia in 2019–2022.

The exhibition celebrates the man behind the game-changing Native Title Act, Eddie Koiki Mabo, and is co-curated by Umbrella Studio's previous Directors, Dr Jonathan McBurnie and Kellie Williams, together with Eddie's daughter Gail Mabo.

The exhibition brings together a selection of 22 works by 25 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in the spirit of reconciliation, almost three decades after the historic achievement. Each artist was invited to respond to an aspect of Eddie Mabo that they were drawn to, whether it was his life, politics, activism, or legacy. The works come together in surprising ways with reverence, compassion, anger, sadness and respect, celebrating a man who was both a rebel and a dreamer.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts is congratulated for *Legacy: Reflections on Mabo*. It is the first major exhibition to explore the life and legacy of Eddie Koiki Mabo from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives. It is also the first to incorporate significant curatorial direction by the Mabo family, and is unique in the way that the entire show comprises commissioned artworks created specifically for this project that have never been seen before."

Ms Butler continued, "This exhibition's significant reach to so many galleries and communities in regions around Australia means that important conversations about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights, reconciliation, culture and Country continue for people of all ages."

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.

The Winners received an exquisitely crafted ceramic trophy by Queensland artist, **Michelle Yeatman**, courtesy of Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct. Michelle belongs to the Gunggannji people. Her work draws on her intimate knowledge of Country and reflects her relationship with Jilghi Beach at Yarrabah. Commissioned by M&G QLD, this year's trophies are generously sponsored by Public Galleries Queensland and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

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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