

13/12/2022

## **NOOSA REGIONAL GALLERY**

### **Joint Winner at State Awards**

The Winners and Finalists of the **2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland on Monday 12 December, at a special awards presentation held at the Queensland State Archives, Runcorn, Brisbane, and live-streamed across the State.

**Noosa Regional Gallery** was announced as **Joint Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Project: Organisations with Paid Staff for ***Floating Land: at the edge of ideas***.

Conceived in 2001 as an outdoor sculptural program held every two years, *Floating Land* invites visitors to experience thoughtful, challenging and environmentally aware works that engage sensitively with Noosa's spectacular natural environments.

The 2021 *Floating Land: at the edge of ideas* marked the 11th iteration of this internationally acclaimed biennial art and environment event, delivering 28 projects featuring in excess of 70 artists, complemented by a program of performances and artist talks that were seen by an estimated audience of more than 57,000 people over the event's 16 days. Importantly, each creative project left no physical trace on the environment at the conclusion of the event.

A very high standard of artistic outcomes and cultural experiences lie at the heart of what *Floating Land* sets out to achieve. In 2021, it was delivered despite the challenges of COVID-19, with closed borders and local lockdowns impacting the development and delivery of the event; limiting the ability of the event to work with artists from further afield; and impacting engagement with interstate and international tourists.

Noosa Regional Gallery is commended for the quality of this impressive event and for achieving key outcomes in areas including:

- Strengthening *Floating Land*, and the arts more broadly, as an alternative tourism offering for the region;
- Engagement with a new generation of artists and audiences. Strategic effort was directed towards engaging with younger artists and audiences; and
- Digital Engagement. Partially in response to COVID lockdowns and actual and perceived limitations on in-person engagement, the 2021 *Floating Land* saw a significant increase in

digital engagement. More than 232,000 people were reached through social media across the 16 days of *Floating Land* – an average of almost 15,000 per day!

**Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said,** “Noosa Regional Gallery’s internationally acclaimed *Floating Land* biennial event is a major drawcard for locals and tourists to the region. The Gallery’s commitment to environmental values, the high-caliber of works showcased and the levels of engagement achieved with *Floating Land* in 2021, despite the impacts of COVID, are truly commendable.”

Ms Butler continued, “The 2022 Winners and Finalists were selected from a strong field of nominations received from organisations, large and small, across Queensland. It is an honour to be shining a spotlight on the outstanding work of so many worthy individuals and organisations.”

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 2022 Winners received an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, **Donna Davis**, commissioned by M&G QLD. Inspired by science and the natural world, her work examines human and non-human relationships with respect to ecological health. The 2022 GAMAA are generously sponsored by Public Galleries Queensland and Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland.

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