

14/12/2022

RACHEL ARNDT

Finalist 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.

Rachel Arndt, in her role as **Gallery Curator, Somerset Regional Council**, was recognised as **Finalist** for her outstanding achievement in the category of Individuals: Paid.

Rachel commenced as Gallery Curator at The Condensery, Somerset Regional Council, in May 2021 during a time when the Gallery was in need of a new direction.

Over a period of 15 months, Rachel has achieved significant goals, creating an audacious strategic plan, a new bold branding proposition, and a vibrant program with accompanying public programs that now book out with every exhibition.

The outstanding level of professionalism that Rachel has brought to The Condensery is evidenced by programs that succeed in educating new audiences; working with community; developing new partnerships; increasing community engagement; contributing to community wellbeing; and delivering outcomes for under-represented minorities in the region – specifically First Nations, youth and LGBTIQ+ peoples.

Rachel has introduced new models of visitor engagement, including a significant partnership with The University of Queensland Art Museum; and strategic partnerships with University of Southern Queensland School of Creative Arts and Griffith University Queensland College of the Arts for student placements, internships and research projects.

Rachel's artistic program is focused on relevant local, national and global cultural conversations, showcasing excellence.

Responsive to community cultural aspirations, she has introduced new ideas and creative practice to the Somerset region, and makes a valued contribution to enriching the lives of the community and visitors.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Rachel Arndt is a worthy finalist in this category and is congratulated for her remarkable achievements in reimaging The Condensery | Somerset Regional Gallery and for bringing the local community with her on its transformational journey. Her efforts have been rewarded with significant increases in audience visitation and engagement."

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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