

14/12/2022

TRACY COOPER-LAVERY

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.

Tracy Cooper-Lavery, in her role as **Director – Gallery & Visual Art, HOTA, Home of the Arts**, Gold Coast, was recognised as **Finalist** for her outstanding achievement in the category of **Individuals: Paid**.

With a lifelong passion for visual arts, Tracy Cooper-Lavery has an extensive career in Australian public galleries. Currently the Director – Gallery & Visual Arts, HOTA, her previous positions include Director of Rockhampton Art Gallery, and Senior Curator at Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria.

Significantly, Tracy led the development of the award-winning HOTA Gallery, Australia's largest regionally-based public art gallery, and was instrumental in the early planning and final development of Rockhampton Museum of Art. Her passion is to demonstrate the role and value of regional galleries and their collections, and their significance in telling our collective stories.

Tracy has brought her international experience to HOTA and embraced the opportunity to partner with one of the world's largest private collectors to present an exhibition of international contemporary art. This is a first of its kind for the organisation, positioning HOTA as an influencer in the arts sector in Australia.

Tracy adopts a lifelong approach to her learning and professional development. She keeps abreast of emerging industry trends through her Board roles, and her active membership with numerous industry organisations. Tracy has cultivated a strong and diverse peer network both nationally and internationally and, through her studies, work practices and ongoing learning, she has raised the level of professionalism at the galleries she has managed. She is a strong advocate for effective governance, administration and dynamic leadership.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "As a Finalist in the category of Individuals – Paid Staff, Tracy Cooper-Lavery is recognised for her

remarkable contribution to the sector, as well as her leadership, professionalism, 'big ideas', and her innate ability to understand audience appetite and interests, and to develop customised creative programs in response."

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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