

13/12/2022

The University of Queensland Art Museum 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.

The University of Queensland Art Museum was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Sustainability: Organisations with Paid Staff for *Carbon Neutral Certification for the "Oceanic Thinking" exhibition*.

In February 2022, The University of Queensland (UQ) Art Museum received Climate Active carbon neutral certification for the exhibition *Oceanic Thinking*. Climate Active is Australia's certifying body operated by the Australian Government to provide a rigorous and consistent measure for carbon neutrality. UQ Art Museum's team aimed to receive official certification so that they could model best practice and demonstrate their commitment to sustainability to their audiences, the university community and to the wider museum and gallery sector.

The process to become carbon neutral certified involved assessing the carbon footprint of the organisation or activity being undertaken, including gathering and counting emissions from a range of activities. They weighed rubbish, counted electricity use for everything from air conditioning to the water fountain at the front of the Art Museum and, in their case, also chose to include optional factors such as freight chains related to artwork shipping and the carbon footprint of their visitors.

Once the data had collated and their carbon footprint calculated, they looked at how they might remove or reduce these. Any emissions that couldn't be removed or reduced were offset through the purchase of carbon offsets and using UQ's carbon credits.

To their credit, UQ Art Museum is the first Queensland-based museum or gallery to have an officially certified carbon neutral exhibition.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The University of Queensland Art Museum is a worthy winner in this category. Going through the certification process has informed the Art Museum's strategic planning in areas including

sustainability, exhibition development and design. Significantly, they are developing plans to formally share their learnings with colleagues in the sector, including an educational program on achieving carbon neutrality for regional institutions.”

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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