

23/11/2023

HOTA GALLERY

Finalist at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland on Wednesday 22 November, at a special awards presentation proudly hosted by Logan City Council at the Kingston Butter Factory Cultural Precinct, Kingston.

HOTA Gallery was announced as **Finalist** for its remarkable achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project for ***Postcards for the Edge***.

HOTA, Home of the Arts, proudly opened HOTA Gallery in May 2021 and is the heart of the City of Gold Coast's thriving cultural precinct. HOTA Gallery facilitates and shares new ideas and experiences in visual art and draws its strength from integrated arts programming and collaborations with artists, creatives and organisational partners.

In 2021, HOTA engaged Queensland artist Martin Edge to collaborate on an immersive exhibition project aimed at families and to raise awareness of Autism in the community.

Martin, has been painting full-time since 2007. His naïve, colourful paintings joyfully reflect his view of the world as an artist with Autism.

Postcards from the Edge was HOTA Gallery's third exhibition project presented in its dedicated Children's Gallery. Displayed from 11 June to 30 October 2022, this exhibition placed inclusivity and accessibility at the forefront of the exhibition experience.

Martin's Gold Coast beach paintings were used to transform HOTA's Children's Gallery into a 3D immersive, family-friendly holiday adventure that encouraged safe, explorative play. It included:

- A giant sandcastle for children to climb and discover hidden souvenirs from HOTA's collection.
- Martin's Shop, a place for imaginative retail play.
- Martin's Souvenir Stand, where the artist displayed a curated selection of his favourite souvenirs from HOTA's collection and visitors displayed their own souvenir mementos created during their visit.
- A delightful animation video that brought Martin's self-portrait image to life, providing wonderful insights into the artist's lived experiences and his artistic practice.



- A downloadable Spotify playlist for visitors to listen to Martin's favourite music.
- Hands-on art activities designed to connect audiences to memory making and shared holiday experiences, and Edge Post where visitors could 'post' their souvenir postcards to Martin.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "HOTA Gallery is commended for its exhibition *Postcards from the Edge*. This fun, colourful and engaging exhibition was a wonderful experience for families visiting their Children's Gallery."

"Not only did the exhibition contribute to Martin Edge's professional development and expose his visual arts practice to new audiences, it also aligned strongly with the Year of Accessible Tourism. Significantly, *Postcards from the Edge* has created an important accessibility framework going forward, and for deepening HOTA Gallery's engagement with the Gold Coast's neurodiverse audiences."

Ms Butler continued, "The Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are a celebration of the professional excellence, innovation and leadership within Queensland's arts and cultural heritage sector. We extend our congratulations to this year's worthy Winners and Finalists."

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 2023 Winners received an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, **Nicole Jakins**, commissioned by M&G QLD. Nicole's works explore environmental concerns, drawing on the beauty and fragility of nature.

The 2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are proudly supported by **Logan City Council** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

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