

23/11/2023

IPSWICH ART 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.

Ipswich Art Gallery was recognised as a **Finalist** for its remarkable achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project ***Just be Your Selfie***.

Ipswich Art Gallery takes play seriously! One of their goals is to create dynamic pathways for lifelong learning and relationships with art. They believe that children are important members of our community who should be encouraged to express and develop their ideas.

For the past twenty-five years, Ipswich Art Gallery has delivered more than 60 child-centred exhibitions. ***Just be Your Selfie*** was one of these initiatives.

Presented at Ipswich Art Gallery from 30 November 2022 to 29 January 2023, *Just be Your Selfie* transformed their Exhibition Gallery into a hands-on portrait studio for young makers.

The portrait studio was a time-based experience designed to create an inclusive, safe, supportive, comfortable space to accommodate participants with varying needs and sensory issues. At the end of the studio session, the young artists were invited to contribute their portrait to the collaborative exhibition. These were hung by Ipswich Art Gallery staff at the end of each day, and with each new creation, the exhibition *Just be Your Selfie* grew.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Ipswich Art Gallery is commended for the playful, inclusive nature of this exhibition and its resourcefulness. *Just be Your Selfie* encouraged artistic expression and fostered confidence in young people of all abilities, and was a wonderful initiative to strengthen connections with their community."

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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