

23/11/2023

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY | GALLERY OF MODERN ART Winner 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.

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project for **QAGOMA Learning: DESIGN TRACKS**.

DESIGN TRACKS: CREATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM is an annual student-led program developed by QAGOMA Learning and delivered in partnership with a constellation of Indigenous agencies, businesses, community organisations, academics, mentors, artists and creatives.

Led by QAGOMA's Head of Learning, Terry Deen, DESIGN TRACKS was conceived as a micro-pilot project in 2017-2018 to close gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people across regional and remote Queensland in the critical area of secondary education.

Understanding the vital role galleries and museums play in providing students with cultural learning experiences that can complement the work of schools, the QAGOMA Learning team set about creating pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in regional and remote Queensland.

Run over several days, the program features direct engagement with some of Australia's finest First Nations talents across art forms, and intensive residency elements including workshops, presentations, keynotes, travel, site specific research and attendance at curated events, collections and displays.



From its inception the program has flourished, and through 2022-2023 it has transitioned to become one of QAGOMA's most impactful, remotely delivered programs in the Gallery's history. Significantly, with the support of the Neilson Foundation, and the appointment of QAGOMA's new Regional Liaison Officer, Georgia Walsh (a Badtjala / Wondunna, K'gari woman), DESIGN TRACKS is now proudly run by, run with, and run for, First Nations participants.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The DESIGN TRACKS program is a wonderful initiative. As Winner in this category, QAGOMA's Learning Team is recognised for their great commitment to creating learning and pathway opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people wanting to pursue a career in arts, design and education. QAGOMA is also commended for securing meaningful partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders to support this unique program to flourish and to achieve the best possible outcomes for participating students."

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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