

15/10/2024

State Library of Queensland Finalist at State Awards

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 8 October, at a special awards presentation hosted by the Queensland Museum Cobb+Co, Toowoomba.

State Library of Queensland (SLQ) was recognised as a **Finalist** in the **category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff** for its engaging ***Meet the Artists*** exhibition in **slq Gallery**.

Meet the Artists was a celebration of Australian renowned contemporary artists and art world figures, highlighting SLQ's James C. Sourris AM Collection of Artist Interviews to build engagement with their collection, and promote awareness of this valuable resource and documentation of art practice. Curated by Julie Ewington and produced by SLQ, the exhibition was displayed in slq Gallery from 25 February until 9 July 2023.

The exhibition highlighted filmed interviews with prominent artists, gallerists, and curators who have lived, worked, or exhibited in Queensland. Developed since 2010, the James C. Sourris AM Collection of Artist Interviews, provides insights into the thinking processes and studio methods of leading Australian artists, ranging from senior figures such as Richard Bell, Jennifer Herd, Vernon Ah Kee, and William Robinson to younger artists, including Sandra Selig and d Harding.

In addition to the digital collection, the exhibition displayed physical artworks from eight Queensland artists, allowing visitors to experience an unknown side of the artists' processes, influences, and transitions in their practice over the years. The featured artists included Vernon Ah Kee, Luke Roberts, Fiona Foley, Judith Wright, Leonard Brown, Anne Wallace, Sandra Selig, and Eugene Carchesio.

As part of the exhibition, a hardcover publication was produced to profile each of the 35 artists in the collection, along with commissioned photographic portraits and imagery of the featured artists' works. The exhibition also comprised a suite of dynamic online and onsite public programs, including professional development opportunities, sound and music performances, and critical discussions with the exhibiting artists, aimed at reaching new audiences and building knowledge and accessibility with the James C. Sourris Collection of Artist Interviews.

Collaborating with the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, SLQ sought to engage art enthusiasts, professional artists, and students while also increasing awareness of the State Library's resources and collections.

The judges commended the State Library of Queensland's *Meet the Artists* project, noting that this initiative demonstrated new and creative ways of augmenting SLQ's collection materials to provide new insights into artists' creative-making processes and practices. The commissioning of curriculum-aligned education resources and the inclusion of First Nations and LGBTIQ+ content to engage wider audiences and increase school participation was also praised.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Our congratulations to the State Library of Queensland. A worthy Finalist in this competitive category, we commend their vision and delivery of this multi-faceted exhibition project that has showcased and raised awareness of the significant artists and artworkers who have contributed to Queensland's cultural landscape, and increased engagement with the remarkable collections held by the State Library."

Ms Butler continued, "The 2024 Winners, Highly Commended 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."

Now in its twentieth year, the GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2024 Winners received an exquisite trophy by emerging Queensland artist, **Monique Burkhead**. Monique is of Polynesian, Maori and Australian heritage and lives and works in Cairns. She is passionate about conserving the environment, and through her art hopes to raise an awareness of the fragile nature of our natural environment and the impacts of climate change.

The 2024 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by Brian Tucker.

The 2024 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Queensland Museum** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

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