

15/10/2024

Logan Art Gallery of Queensland Highly Commended 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 held at the Queensland Museum Cobb+Co, Toowoomba.

Logan Art Gallery received a **Highly Commended** for its outstanding achievement in the category of **Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff** for the *Robyn Daw Young Visual Artist Scholarship*, an impactful initiative supporting the career pathways of emerging artists, aged 18 – 30 years, in Logan.

The *Robyn Daw Young Visual Artist Scholarship* was established to honour the memory of Robyn Daw, who served as Logan City Council's Creative Industries Program Leader from 2012 until her passing in January 2022. The project was designed to uphold two of Robyn's passions: supporting emerging artists and celebrating Logan City's multicultural community. The scholarship, funded by a generous donation from the Daw Friend family, will operate for five years, with the first scholarship culminating in the inaugural finalists' exhibition at Logan Art Gallery in 2024.

The project was developed in three stages. Stage one involved working with freelance art consultant, Debbie Abrahams, to establish the aims and objectives of the scholarship and design the overall structure. Stage two focused on publicising the scholarship within the Logan community to attract a diverse range of applicants. The final stage entailed selecting the finalists and providing them with professional mentoring to prepare their work for the group exhibition at Logan Art Gallery.

The judges commended Logan Art Gallery for providing new opportunities for local emerging artists and look forward to seeing the longer-term impacts of the *Robyn Daw Young Visual Artist Scholarship*. Receiving a Highly Commended in this competitive category serves as a testament to the Gallery's dedication to nurturing creativity, promoting artistic excellence, and advancing cultural exchange.

The *Robyn Daw Young Visual Artist Scholarship*, supports the aims and planned outcomes of Logan City Council's *Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy* (2018–2022) and future strategies. Feedback from the first round of scholarship finalists clearly demonstrates the extraordinary benefits they have gained from participating in this valuable program.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Logan Art Gallery and the Daw Friend family, Ian Friend and Dexter Daw Friend, are to be congratulated for establishing the Robyn Daw Young Visual Artist Scholarship. It is an incredible initiative to honour the memory of our colleague and friend, Robyn Daw, and speaks to Logan Art Gallery's ongoing commitment to showcase the creative strengths and cultural diversity of Logan City; to promote inclusivity and diversity through the arts; and to support the region's next generation of artists."

Ms Butler continued, "The 2024 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."

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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