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Griffith University Art Museum Winner 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.

M&G QLD is excited to announce that **Griffith University Art Museum** (GUAM) was honoured with **Winning** a prestigious Gallery and Museum Achievement Award in the **category of Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff** for its outstanding collaboration with one of Australia's most important Aboriginal art collectives proppaNOW and the globally significant Indonesian artists collective Taring Padi.

This collaborative project resulted in the creation of a large-scale banner titled *Ngaliya Budjong Djarra* (Our Mother Earth) 2023-24, which was displayed at Griffith University Art Museum. The project included a month-long shared studio residency at the Paint Factory, Yeronga, and culminated in a survey exhibition of Taring Padi's almost three-decade-long history titled *Tanah Tumpah Darah* which showcased over 120 artworks. This impactful exhibition addressed contemporary issues of displacement, environmental devastation, food shortages, and unemployment, and encouraged equality for all.

The project, which dovetailed politics, arts and activism, showcased the remarkable talents and creativity of the participating artists. It also provided valuable training opportunities for GUAM staff, interns, and volunteers, as well as offering paid student placements for Griffith University students. In addition, the project facilitated important community engagement, particularly for local First Nations and artistic communities.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Our congratulations to Griffith University Art Museum and each of the collaborators involved with this exceptional project. It is a testament to Griffith University Art Museum's commitment to artistic excellence, community engagement, and fostering collaboration and intercultural exchange. This project enhanced artistic relationships within the Asia-Pacific region and engaged audiences in important global discussions."

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 to honour the achievements of our State’s individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

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

M&G QLD’s 2024 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by Brian Tucker.

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

For media enquiries please contact:

**Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&G QLD
Museums & Galleries Queensland**

Phone: **07 3059 9740** Freecall: **1800 866 101** Mobile: **0422 579 180**

Email: **rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au** Website: **www.magsq.com.au**

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