

Outstanding collection of artists' books held at Artspace Mackay

Councillors Kevin Casey, Chris Bonanno, Laurence Bonaventura and Alison Jones, Mackay Regional Council, joined Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) at a presentation event on Tuesday 8 December 2015, in congratulating Artspace Mackay on completing a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* (2014).

Artspace Mackay is located in an award-winning architecturally designed building. Centrally located in the city's cultural precinct, the Gallery has a vibrant exhibition program, contemporary gift shop and alfresco café.

M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today,

"Artspace Mackay is to be commended for its participation in M&G QLD's Standards Review Program. The Gallery houses an outstanding collection of artists' books that include works of national importance. The presentation of a biennial National Artists' Books Award (The Libris Awards) since 2006 has contributed to developing the collection and increasing its national profile."

According to M&G QLD's Standards Program Reviewers, Elizabeth Bates and Ross Searle, industry experts who played a vital role in providing pro-bono professional advice and assistance throughout the Program:

"Artspace Mackay's exhibition program attracts major national touring exhibitions and these are well presented. The Gallery team are to be congratulated for maintaining such a level of professionalism in the presentation of its programs."

Anna Thurgood, Gallery Director, explained what they had gained by participating in the Standards Review Program,

"It was a real chance to stop and reflect on the gallery's purpose, our staff, our community, needs of stakeholders, and to take a realistic approach to our direction for the future."

M&G QLD's Standards Review Program supports museums and galleries to build skills and capacity, plan for a sustainable future, identify strategic priorities for improvement, develop an action plan and ensure the safeguarding and accessibility of community collections and stories.

For more information on the Standards Review Program, please visit

<http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=5520>

M&G QLD is pleased to acknowledge the support of Mackay Regional Council and the Regional Arts Development Fund, which allowed M&G QLD to deliver this program to the region. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



Artspace Mackay's profile is attached.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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Image Caption

Artspace Mackay staff receiving a Certificate of Recognition and being supported by their stakeholders.

Acknowledgement

Photographer: Reflections from Life. Courtesy of Museums & Galleries Queensland.

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