

9/10/2026

IPSWICH ART GALLERY FINALIST 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **Ipswich Art Gallery** as a Finalist in the **Projects: Organisations With 7+ FTE Paid Staff** category, for its exhibition ***Painting the Celestial*** at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

Now in its twenty-second year, the GAMAA are Queensland's premier awards program for the museum and gallery sector, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the State. Special guest, **Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented winners with individually crafted trophies by acclaimed Queensland glass artist **Jarred Wright**.

Ipswich Art Gallery has been recognised as a finalist for *Painting the Celestial*, the first major retrospective of Ipswich-based artist Leonard Brown, celebrating more than 60 years of artistic practice and creative achievement.

Curated by respected art historian, art critic and curator, Sasha Grishin AM, FAHA, the exhibition brought together 90 works spanning Brown's acclaimed abstract paintings, figurative works and religious icons. Presented across three immersive gallery spaces, *Painting the Celestial* offered audiences the most comprehensive exploration of the artist's career to date, revealing the profound relationship between spirituality and abstraction that has defined his artistic practice for more than six decades.

Drawing strong audiences and critical acclaim, the exhibition highlighted Leonard Brown's significant contribution to Australian art while reinforcing Ipswich Art Gallery's commitment to presenting ambitious exhibitions that celebrate important artists and preserve their legacy for future generations.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "*Painting the Celestial* was a profound exhibition that honoured Leonard Brown's remarkable career and invited audiences to experience more than six decades of artistic practice. We congratulate Ipswich Art Gallery on this ambitious and beautifully realised retrospective. Through thoughtful curation and immersive presentation, the Gallery celebrated an important Queensland artist and helped preserve his significant contribution to Australian art history."

This year's awards attracted nominations from across the state, recognising excellence in exhibitions, public programs, collections management, First Nations and community engagement, leadership, innovation and volunteer contributions.

M&G QLD congratulates each of this year's winners, highly commended recipients and finalists. Their achievements exemplify the passion, creativity and commitment that continue to enrich Queensland's cultural landscape and inspire excellence across the sector.

ABOUT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QUEENSLAND

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional industry body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland.

Our purpose is to inspire and support excellence in Queensland museums, galleries and keeping places, fostering innovation, connection and cultural leadership.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 GAMAA SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The 2026 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Ipswich Art Gallery** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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

MEDIA RELEASE END



Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Ltd
trading as Museums & Galleries Queensland
- ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the
Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.