

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

## **LOGAN ART GALLERY**

### **Joint Winner at State Awards**

The strength, ingenuity and talents of Queensland's public galleries and museums were triumphantly demonstrated tonight with the announcement of the winners of the **2017 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala presentation event, proudly hosted by Old Government House, QUT.

**Logan Art Gallery**, was **announced the Joint Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations With Paid Staff' for its exhibition *lesu ra mir giz (From the beginning) ge omaid a (when the Gospel came) Mer ge baziarda (it took root in Erub) igiare Torres Strait (and branched out to the whole of the Torres Strait)*.

This remarkable exhibition was curated by local Torres Strait Islander artist, Sylvia Nakachi, and developed in partnership with Logan Art Gallery, who had the unique opportunity to mentor a local artist to curate her first exhibition, while at the same time sharing her extraordinary knowledge and insight into Torres Strait Islander history and culture with visitors and residents of Logan.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as the joint Winner in this category is testament to Logan Art Gallery's commitment to mentor local artists and artswomen and to provide meaningful engagement and knowledge sharing opportunities within its community."

The Gallery consulted and worked together with Sylvia and Indigenous Elder, Uncle Barry Watson, over a six-month period to coordinate a Family Fun Day event, which showcased Torres Strait Islander arts and culture. This event employed over 70 Torres Strait Islander artists and community members, and provided a valuable opportunity for the wider community of Logan to

engage with Torres Strait Islander culture.

This exhibition project will be included in a documentary 'Our Stories' to be aired on NITV and SBS in November 2017. Tamara Whyte, film director and producer of Nandeebie Films, documented Sylvia's process of creating work and developing the exhibition. The documentary focuses on Sylvia's role as a First Nations woman communicating her culture to the diverse communities in the City of Logan. This is a tremendous outcome for the project and allows Sylvia's story to be told to a national audience.

This project and the support of Logan Art Gallery has given Sylvia the confidence to apply for The Macquarie Group First Nations Emerging Curator Award for 2017.

Ms Butler said, "This year's winners and finalists stood out from an exceptional group of nominations. These accolades embody outstanding examples of our sector's achievements, professional excellence, and innovation. They also highlight the valuable contribution and achievements of professionals and volunteers working in our industry."

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our state's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

Winners of the 2017 GAMAA received an exquisite trophy crafted by Queensland artist, Lincoln Austin. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE END**



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