

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

## **MUSEUM OF BRISBANE Recognised 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.

**Museum of Brisbane** was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its exhibition ***Robert Andrew: Our Mutable Histories***.

Museum of Brisbane engaged Robert Andrew, a Brisbane-based installation artist and descendant of the Yawuru people of the Broome area in the Kimberley, Western Australia, to create three new artworks for the exhibition, *Our Mutable Histories*. The exhibition explored Robert's Australian Indigenous cultural heritage and his personal histories that had previously been hidden, distorted or denied. The artworks included kinetic elements and new technology, and combined traditional materials such as red ochres and oxides with binary language and computer operated machines – using technology as a tool with which to speak.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as a Finalist in this category is testament to Museum of Brisbane's commitment to support Brisbane-based artists and to deliver ambitious exhibition projects that engage its local community and visitors to our city."

*Our Mutable Histories* was Robert Andrew's most ambitious exhibition to date. It explored a central theme of erasure, which was defined through the physical process of scraping back or washing a surface to reveal and understand what 'lies beneath'. Across a five-month period,

Museum of Brisbane welcomed more than 115,000 people to the exhibition, and visitors were able to hear from the artist in a series of talks about how his family history inspired the artworks created for the exhibition, and the complexities of identity and the varied and inconsistent nature of history.

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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