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QLD's galleries and museums recognised in State Awards

Queensland's public galleries and museums were formally recognised at the **2016 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event proudly presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland and hosted by Creative Arts Redlands – Redland Performing Arts Centre and Redland Art Gallery, on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

Tanks Arts Centre, which is a part of the Cairns Regional Council in far north Queensland, was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its exhibition *Freedom of Expression: Indigenous Art from Queensland Correctional Centres*.

Held in July 2016, *Freedom of Expression: Indigenous Art from Queensland Correctional Centres*, showed Indigenous prisoners' artworks from four correctional centres. This was the first State-wide exhibition of its scale and profile in Queensland. The exhibition was a satellite exhibition to the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) and attracted an audience of 3,300 visitors, collectors and curators. Importantly, the exhibition leaves a legacy for many of its participating artists who now have opportunities and support for their career paths prior to their release.

The exhibition was co-curated by CIAF Artistic Director, Janina Harding, and Tanks Arts Centre Curator, Chris Stannard.

Presented by **Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD), the GAMAA celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector. The awards also recognise the valuable contribution that our State's museums and galleries make in enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said the GAMAA continue to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our museums and galleries and are testament to the skill, ingenuity and professionalism of the sector.

“This year’s GAMAA recipients reflect a diverse range of large and small organisations. M&G QLD extends its congratulations to all of the 2016 GAMAA winners, finalists and nominees. We also thank our 2016 judges, sponsors and partners in supporting this important industry event,” Ms Butler said.

For a full list of 2016 GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

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