

25/11/2015

Torres Strait Regional Authority, Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Recognised as Finalist at Queensland Gallery and Museum Awards

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly announced the recipients of the **2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event hosted by The University of Queensland Art Museum on Thursday 19 November 2015.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority, Gab Titui Cultural Centre, on Thursday Island, was recognised as a **Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its **exhibition** *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks*. In announcing the Gab Titui Cultural Centre as a Finalist in this category, the judges acknowledged the organisation's efforts in developing this remarkable exhibition.

The aim of this significant project aim was to highlight the continuing importance of masks, their evolution from the past and influence on present day contemporary art forms.

Masks are representational of ancestral, supernatural and/or totemic beings that form an important component in the traditional beliefs of Torres Strait Islanders. The exhibition takes the viewer on a journey from time immemorial when masks were used in ceremonial rituals involving art, theatre and dance.

The exhibition tells of how these historic artefacts, now kept in national and international institutions, have inspired new works and how these are constantly developing and changing. Irrespective of the impact of cultural desecration that post-colonialism had caused in the Torres Strait, the art of creating masks and choreographing new dances is part of a continuing cultural tradition. *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks* was curated by the Gab Titui Operations and Exhibitions Manager and Gallery Officer, with the invaluable support of award-winning Badu Island artist, Alick Tipoti.

Presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland, the **GAMAA celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector.** It also recognises the valuable contribution that our State's museums and galleries make to 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, "It is with great pleasure that M&G QLD congratulates the winners and finalists of the 2015 GAMAA. We commend all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year's awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects."

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

The 2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards were presented by M&G QLD and generously supported by The University of Queensland Art Museum. The GAMAA are proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting. We also acknowledge the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd trading as Museums & Galleries Queensland – ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.