



# STEPHEN NOTHLING

THE LAST STREET  
IN HIGHGATE HILL

23 OCTOBER 2015–31 JANUARY 2016

EXHIBITION REPORT

MUSEUM  
◊ OF ◊  
BRISBANE





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Louisa Street is the last street in Highgate Hill. The next suburb of Brisbane, Dutton Park, begins across the road. *The last street in Highgate Hill* documents the unique and personal perspective of Brisbane artist Stephen Nothling.

Stephen and his family have lived in their pink and purple house in Louisa Street, Highgate Hill since 2001. For inspiration and subject matter for the exhibition, Stephen simply had to venture outside his front door and go for a walk, gathering clues as he soaked up both the incremental and dramatic changes in his neighbourhood, then returning to the solitude of his 'studio' in the backyard garage to paint.

While the exhibition documents only a small area of this large and eclectic city, Stephen's works resonate far beyond his beloved Louisa Street to explore our sense of community, our love for our city and the small but extraordinary things that make it unique.

What resulted is a series of artworks that really sums up the heart of Brisbane – one that I'm sure anyone who hails from here – even those who are unfamiliar with the West End / Highgate Hill neighbourhood can identify with in some way.

*The last street in Highgate Hill* is part of Document, an ongoing series of exhibitions that uncover how artists, photographers and observers view and record Brisbane's landscape, history and culture. It is always exciting to work with artists like Stephen whose works allow us to look at our city with fresh perspectives. This exhibition was a series of quirky and delightful views which the Museum was very proud to show the people and visitors of Brisbane.

Museum of Brisbane sincerely thanks Stephen Nothling for his extensive work and commitment to this exhibition. I would also like to thank Deirdre Jackson and Pat Nothling for their support.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Museum again soon.

Peter Denham  
Director

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

*The last street in Highgate Hill* documents Stephen Nothling's observations and imaginings of everyday life in Louisa Street, Highgate Hill where the artist has lived for the past 14 years. Inner-suburban Brisbane is explored by Nothling, through an affectionate and imaginative interpretation of life behind the façade of 38 homes in Highgate Hill.

Stephen Nothling created new work for this exhibition by observing and interpreting everyday life in his endearing neighbourhood. Nothling's work documents his daily walks of Louisa Street, beginning and ending at his house. He observes the everyday changes to the households and gardens he passes, often collecting objects which he incorporates into some of his paintings in the form of visual puns and jokes. There is a humorous, playful edge to Nothling's work, in the way he documents the lives of the other residents based on his neighbourly conversations and imagination.

The exhibition features a suite of nine paintings that depicts every house in the street. *Jewel of Highgate Hill* is a triptych of the artist's house as seen from the top of the street looking down into his garage studio. *The Street Collection* includes nine small collaged paintings of incidental imaginings based on perceived experiences of daily life.

## COLLECTION

Museum of Brisbane has acquired the triptych, *Jewel of Highgate Hill* (1, 2 and 3). We would like to thank Stephen Nothling and Deirdre Jackson for their significant contribution toward the purchase of this work. This work represents a unique story and identity of Brisbane and is a fantastic addition to the Museum of Brisbane Collection.

Above: *Jewel of Highgate Hill*  
(1, 2 and 3) 2015  
Oil on canvas and board  
Museum of Brisbane Collection

Front and back cover:  
No. 4-22 (red + yellow cars) 2015 (detail)  
Oil on board

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Public programs for *The last street in Highgate Hill* provided intimate opportunities to hear the stories of the street directly from the artist. Stephen captivated the audience with stories about his experiences of the houses on Louisa Street and how each of them came to be in the exhibition. Fifteen lucky participants were able to learn from Stephen directly in an artist workshop where they each put together a mixed media artwork inspired by their own home and surroundings. Children also got to experience the magic of Stephen's bowerbird approach to his collage works with a children's collage workshop, creating cards and decorations just in time for Christmas.



Stephen Nothling delivering a tour of *The last street in Highgate Hill*

Public programs  
enjoyed by  
**1145 participants**



Children getting creative in our Christmas collage workshop



Collage masterclass with Stephen Nothling

**85,310 people**  
visited the museum  
during the exhibition.



Stephen Nothling: *The last street in Highgate Hill* exhibition launch

## MARKETING

*Stephen Nothling: The last street in Highgate Hill* received strong media coverage across television, print, radio and online outlets. Media highlights included an Australia-wide feature on ABC News 24, 612 ABC Brisbane interview with the artist (picked up nationally by ABC online), a feature in *The Australian* (syndicated online), and a cover story in *West End Magazine*.

Outdoor advertisements were placed on King George Square and Adelaide Street digital signage, adjacent to one of the busiest bus terminals in the city. Print advertisements were also placed in *Art Almanac*, *Artist Profile*, and *West End Magazine*.

To support outdoor and mass media channels the Museum produced 15,000 postcards which were distributed to targeted inner-city cafes, bars, educational centres, cultural venues, libraries, tourist information centres, shops, corporate partners and available within the Museum. The exhibition was also featured on the cover of the Museum's October - January printed events guide.

Digital audiences were engaged across email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the Museum website. Social media posts pertaining to *Stephen Nothling: The last street in Highgate Hill* were amongst the highest performing since the Museum's launch almost three years ago.

## MERCHANDISE

The merchandise range included a linen tea towel and magnet, both using imagery from works in the exhibition. The latter sold 75% of stock during the exhibition, while the tea towels sold out weeks before closing.

**26 groups** visited the Museum specifically for *Stephen Nothling: The last street in Highgate Hill*, with a combined total of 383 people.

**1,098 students** visited the museum during the exhibition consisting of 10 Primary Schools (504 students), 13 Secondary Schools (270 students) and 16 Tertiary Institutions (324 Students).



King George square signage



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## THANK YOU

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### Media Partners



612 ABC  
Brisbane

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