

MEDIA RELEASE

19 February 2014

Photographs from Brisbane's earliest photographic studios offer fresh insights in a new Museum of Brisbane exhibition.

Captured: Early Brisbane photographers and their Aboriginal subjects, a fascinating new exhibition curated by respected Indigenous photographer and anthropologist Michael Aird, will open at Museum of Brisbane on 14 March.

The exhibition presents photographs of members of the Aboriginal community taken in Brisbane's first photographic studios from the late 1860s, when staged exotic portraits were in demand by European collectors.

Mr Aird shares more than 20 years of passionate research focusing on the work of four early Brisbane photographers – John Watson, William Knight, Thomas Bevan and Daniel Marquis – to offer an insight into the social history of our city and exchanges between European settlers and Aboriginal people.

With individual and institutional contributors from across the world, including the City of Brisbane Collection, National Gallery of Australia and The University of Oxford, the exhibition showcases 46 original carte des visites and more than 170 reproductions.

The exhibition will also include a life-size studio space that will allow visitors to see and imagine those who came to have their image captured.

Museum of Brisbane Director Peter Denham said this was a powerful exhibition of great significance to Australia's social history.

"*Captured* is of profound historical importance, not just for the people of Brisbane but Australia-wide, where representation of our Indigenous community remains an important part of the cultural dialogue," Mr Denham said.

"We were very fortunate to have Michael Aird as a guest curator, who with his wealth of knowledge and passionate research has created an exhibition that examines Brisbane's social history with humanity, integrity and a fresh perspective."

Captured is part of *Document*, an ongoing series of exhibitions at Museum of Brisbane that uncovers how artists, photographers and observers view and record Brisbane's landscape, history and culture.

The exhibition will run until 22 June with free curator tours on 23 March and 15 June and the official book launch of *Calling the Shots*, a collection of essays exploring the early photography of Indigenous Australians, on 2 April. For more information visit www.museumofbrisbane.com.au.

Museum of Brisbane is open daily from 10am to 5pm on Level 3 of Brisbane City Hall. Free entry.

ENDS

For all media enquiries, please contact Agency North:

Michaela Tam

Stephanie Dooris

0431 868 382

0481 575 827

mtam@agencynorth.com.au

sdooris@agencynorth.com.au

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE
LEVEL 3, CITY HALL,
KING GEORGE SQUARE

PO Box 12162 George Street Brisbane Q 4003
ABN 52 098 223 413

T: 07 3339 0800
E: info@museumofbrisbane.com.au
W: museumofbrisbane.com.au

