

MEDIA RELEASE

25 March 2015

Museum of Brisbane sheds light on pioneer of Queensland art industry

Museum of Brisbane's *William Bustard: Painting with light* (19 June 2015 to 31 January 2016) will pay tribute to the prolific artist and one of the pioneers of Queensland's art scene, who was regarded for his mastery in capturing Queensland's distinctive sense of light.

William Bustard (1894 to 1973) was an entrepreneurial artist, illustrator and stained-glass window designer whose work appeared in prominent Brisbane locations and across the state, from the Darling Downs to North Queensland, as well as internationally in England, Ireland and the United States.

The new exhibition will feature 60 paintings, 13 original stained-glass window designs and 16 objects showcasing both Bustard's artistic practice and his life in Queensland.

Designed and made by Bustard, an original drawing of City Hall's unique stained-glass windows depicting Brisbane of the 1920s will be displayed in public for the very first time. It was considered lost or destroyed until it was recently discovered by the Museum in a collection belonging to one of Bustard's former colleagues.

Arriving in Brisbane from the United Kingdom in 1921, Bustard transformed his style of painting after experiencing the brilliant Queensland light. His palette captured the unique characteristics of the city, from the reflections of clouds on the Brisbane River, sun-drenched pastoral landscapes and the much-loved Jacaranda trees in full bloom.

Pivotal in the development of the visual arts in Brisbane, Bustard was proactive in both his teaching and encouragement of others, also holding positions as President of the Royal Queensland Art Society and foundation member on the Board of Trustees of Queensland Art Gallery.

Museum of Brisbane Director Peter Denham said the exhibition was an opportunity to explore the history of the city through one of its most important artists.

"Bustard was a prolific artist and extremely influential in starting a legitimate appreciation for art in Queensland during the 1920s and 30s," Mr Denham said.

"This exhibition is a timely look at a talented artist who forged new pathways that helped lay the foundation of our enviable visual arts scene today.

"The City of Brisbane Collection has a strong body of Bustard's work, but to offer a wider perspective of Bustard's career, we have been able to connect with many private collectors to include more works.

"A highlight in the lead up to the exhibition has definitely been discovering one of his many hand-drawn designs for stained-glass windows. Uncovering new artifacts and stories is one of the most exciting parts of our job as the city's Museum."

William Bustard: Painting with light will run until 31 January 2016. For more information visit museumofbrisbane.com.au.

Museum of Brisbane is open daily from 10am to 5pm, on level three of Brisbane City Hall - entry is free.

Events

A substantial program of events will accompany the exhibition, including curator talks, workshops, and panel discussions.

Media Contact

Michaela Tam | Agency North | M: 0431 868 382 | E: mtam@agencynorth.com.au

Jaihari Johnstone | Agency North | M: 0487 072 911 | E: jjohnstone@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



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