

MEDIA RELEASE

Museum of Brisbane celebrates the wonderful ordinariness of suburban life in new exhibition

Acclaimed local artist Stephen Nothling has captured a snapshot of the endearing neighbourhood idiosyncrasies and wonderful ordinariness of his beloved Louisa Street, Highgate Hill, in a playful new exhibition which opens at Museum of Brisbane on Friday 23 October 2015.

Featuring a series of 21 vivid paintings, *Stephen Nothling: The last street in Highgate Hill* documents Louisa Street over a 12-month period based on Nothling's observations from his daily walks and bowerbird-esque collections of random memorabilia from the area.

The artworks reveal the façade of all 38 houses on the street, including Stephen's own eccentrically painted pink and purple residence where he has lived for the past 14 years, providing a humorous insight into life in the neighbourhood.

Nine of the paintings focus on several houses within the street and using objects he has collected, Nothling creates comical collages of scenarios of what he imagines goes on behind the confines of the walls.

The exhibition also includes a triptych that features his unapologetically colourful house, his wife Deidre, and children Charlie and Lily. The work is mockingly, if not a little sentimentally titled *The Jewel of Highgate Hill*.

Museum of Brisbane Director Peter Denham said Stephen's highly detailed work was full of character and illustrated everyday life in a humble inner-city Brisbane street.

"From a Google car to his neighbour mowing the lawn, to collected sardine cans and fruit boxes, if you look closely at the paintings there is much to be discovered about the street, its residents, Stephen and life in Brisbane," Mr Denham said.

"Through his observations, Stephen has captured Louisa Street with all its oddities and ordinariness.

"If you go and look the street today you will see things have changed since Stephen created his works – reflecting the changing skyline of the city itself.

"In this exhibition Stephen's light-hearted and charming quirkiness shines through, providing a whimsical, sentimental and totally loveable portrait of 'Louisa' that many people in suburban Brisbane will relate to."

Nothling's works are featured in the collections of Parliament House, Canberra; Macquarie University; Queensland University of Technology; Crown Casino, Melbourne; Moreton Bay Regional Gallery; Rockhampton Regional Gallery and Redcliffe City Gallery.

He was a finalist for the Archibald Prize in 2002, and the Dobell Prize for Drawing and the Gold Coast City Art Prize in 2008, and he won the Innovative Award at the Anthea Poison Art Christmas Exhibition in 2014. This is his first solo public exhibition.

Stephen Nothling: The last street in Highgate Hill runs from 23 October 2015 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.

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

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Events

A substantial program of events will accompany the exhibition including a masterclass with the artist, curator talks, workshops and tours with the artist.

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