

**Museum of Brisbane's *Dress Code* explores fashion's impact on identity and culture**

The role of fashion in reflecting and influencing culture, gender and identity is explored through the provocative artworks of five contemporary artists in Museum of Brisbane's upcoming exhibition *Dress Code*, 3 November 2018 – 28 January 2019.

*Dress Code* artists Gerwyn Davies, Hannah Gartside, Lisa Hilli, Grace Lillian Lee and Emily McGuire merge art, design, craft and fashion to investigate a diversity of cultural approaches to making, wearing and buying across the Asia Pacific.

Director Renai Grace said *Dress Code* is part of an exciting discussion the Museum is hosting over summer that explores how fashion frames identity along with how environmental and ethical consciousness within the fashion industry and among consumers has evolved over the past decade.

"*Dress Code* complements our major summer exhibition *The Designers' Guide: Easton Pearson Archive* by delving into how contemporary designers and artists are responding to the topics of ethical fashion and cultural identity through adornment," Ms Grace said.

"We are delighted to have commissioned new works from Emily McGuire, Hannah Gartside and Grace Lillian Lee, each of which extends the artists' ongoing investigations of collaboration, consumerism and identity within fashion. Visitors can expect to see a range of artistic interpretations of the many and complicated issues around ethical and slow fashion beautifully explored through various artistic disciplines.

"One of my favourite pieces in *Dress Code* is an installation by Lisa Hilli that incorporates strings of glass beads referencing the trade beads used as both a form of adornment and a currency between Australian colonialists and the Indigenous peoples of Papua New Guinea.

"Gerwyn Davies' photographs of exaggerated and playful scenarios cannot fail to lift the spirits and curiosity of the viewer.

"*Dress Code* will also feature wearable artworks from Grace Lillian Lee, drawing upon her Torres Strait Islander heritage, as well as a stunning, new large-scale kinetic sculptural work from Hannah Gartside."

Gerwyn Davies will also be Artist-in-Residence at the Museum from 29 October – 23 November. During his residency, Gerwyn will create a series of costume and still-life photographic works inspired by the Museum of Brisbane Collection. Visitors are encouraged to join Gerwyn for a chat.

*Dress Code* is on display at Museum of Brisbane from 3 November 2018 – 28 January 2019 in Gallery One. Free entry. The exhibition will be complemented by a program of artist talks, workshops and events. More information on artists below. Further information on public programs at [museumofbrisbane.com.au](http://museumofbrisbane.com.au)

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## Notes for Journalists:

**Director Renai Grace and all artists available for interview upon request. Images of artwork are also available on request.**

## About the artists:

### Gerwyn Davies

Combining constructed photography and costume making, Gerwyn's work is an ongoing inventory of characters that are assembled, worn and staged for the camera in an expanded and performative approach to image making.

### Hannah Gartside

Hannah uses deconstructed dressmaking practices to explore ideas of the feminine and the human condition. Hannah collects and repurposes everyday materials and draws from dressmaking, costume making and patchwork quilting processes.

### Lisa Hilli

Lisa Hilli is a contemporary artist whose work focuses on the representation of the black female body and adornment as ongoing themes that allow her to explore, combine and disrupt the confines of photographic and textile practices.

### Grace Lillian Lee

Grace is best known for her stunning wearable artworks that merge Torres Strait Islander weaving traditions with contemporary fashion practice. By mentoring and collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Grace practices cultural craftsmanship in contemporary forms to both inspire and inform.

### Emily McGuire

Emily is an artist, writer and early career researcher in contemporary fashion practice. With a background in fashion design her work explores the complex relationship between fashion, sustainability and female identity using textiles and second-hand clothing.

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## About Museum of Brisbane

Here at Museum of Brisbane we believe art, culture and history should be experienced.

We encourage you to think boldly, share your ideas and challenge your perceptions. From co-creating with artists to reflecting on contemporary identity, our goal is to ensure you have a memorable and insightful experience every visit.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Brisbane and surrounds, the Yuggara, Turrbal, Jinibara and Quandamooka people. We are privileged to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, artists, curators, writers and storytellers to share and celebrate the rich knowledge, art and histories of our First Nations communities.

The Museum is dedicated to supporting the city's many talented artists, designers, writers, historians and storytellers. We invite artists to create works inspired by our beautiful city and engage our visitors in a global conversation.

Any day in the Museum you may find Traditional Owners sharing local lore, an artist-in-residence creating new work, a performance in one of our exhibitions and our educators nurturing the curiosity and creativity of families and school groups.

Our Museum Guides are among Brisbane's best storytellers and every day we take hundreds of visitors on tours of City Hall and to the top of the iconic Clock Tower. These tours blend historical fact with tales about some of the city's best-known personalities, anecdotes and trivia.

We also work closely with the artists, designers, writers, artisans and small creative businesses of Brisbane and South East Queensland to present bespoke ranges of jewellery, fashion accessories, home-wares, design objects and books in our much-loved MoB Shop.

Museum of Brisbane is a not-for-profit cultural organisation that relies on the support of visitors and our community. Thanks for helping us share the best of Brisbane.

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