

## Greatest number of donations in Museum history secure artworks

There was standing room only last night when Museum of Brisbane celebrated the success of its first major artwork appeal at a special event featuring the two Brisbane artists at its centre of the appeal: Judy Watson and Sam Cranstoun.

Chairman Sallyanne Atkinson AO said the Gadens Art Challenge which had run over the summer to support the purchase of two works from these significant local artists, each illustrating an important local story, had attracted the largest number of donations in the Museum's history.

"I am delighted that owing to the generosity of so many people across Brisbane, and the valuable support of our long-term partner Gadens Brisbane, and their contribution of \$20,000, we have secured Judy Watson's *water dragon* 2011 and a new commission by Sam Cranstoun for the Museum of Brisbane Collection," Mrs Atkinson said.

"The Museum of Brisbane Collection is part of the soul of our city and the addition of these important contemporary artworks through the Gadens Art Challenge will be a wonderful gift to future generations from today's supporters of the Museum."

Watson's work, *water dragon* 2011, beautifully maps the flooding Brisbane River exploring its impact on the contemporary city but also the memory of water and its connection to Country.

Cranstoun will create a new multi-media artwork exploring the complicated story of Greek architect and town planner Dr C.A Doxiadis' brief residence in Brisbane. He is also taking part in an exciting collaboration between Museum of Brisbane and QPAC as part of the International Series' Teatro alla Scala Ballet Company season."

Museum of Brisbane Director Renai Grace said the Museum had been overwhelmed by support for the appeal, especially from new donors.

"I believe these artworks really struck a chord with Brisbane audiences and I am pleased that we have been able to ensure they stay in Brisbane as part of our collection," she said.

"I also especially want to thank Gadens Brisbane, who are a great supporter of the Museum, as well as the wider arts sector, for sharing our passion for Brisbane artists telling Brisbane stories."

"Most of us desire to leave a legacy – a lasting footprint that will be remembered by those whose lives we have touched," said Paul Spiro, Chairman of Gadens Brisbane and Chair of Brisbane Festival.

"As one of Australia's top law firms, Gadens is in the privileged position to leave a generous and enduring legacy to the people of Brisbane through its partnership with Museum of Brisbane."

For more on exhibitions and events at Museum of Brisbane visit [museumofbrisbane.com.au](http://museumofbrisbane.com.au)

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## About the artists

### Judy Watson

Judy Watson is an internationally renowned, Brisbane-based contemporary Indigenous artist who reflects on hidden histories and Country in artworks that boldly integrate traditional mediums such as ink, paint, charcoal, pastels and dry pigment with different binders and mediums to create a distinctive, layered finish. Watson's works are held by: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Museum of Modern Art, New York; British Museum, London; Tate Britain, London; Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; among others. She was the recipient of the 2015 Australia Council Visual Arts Award (artist) and co-represented Australia at the 1997 Venice Biennale.

### Sam Cranstoun

Sam Cranstoun is a Brisbane-born and based artist whose multidisciplinary practice integrates extensive research with a wide array of media to explore how history is shaped, often focusing on the individual as an instrument to explore collective understanding and identity.

Cranstoun's work is held in private and public collections including The University of Queensland Art Museum and Queensland University of Technology Art Museum. Cranstoun has been a finalist for the Archibald Prize and selected exhibitions include *GOMA Q*, 2015 at Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, and *Light Play*, 2015 at The University of Queensland Art Museum.

## About Museum of Brisbane Collection

The City of Brisbane Collection is owned by the people of Brisbane through Brisbane City Council, and is cared for and managed by Museum of Brisbane. Beginning in 1859 with the foundation of local government in Brisbane, the Collection's holdings expanded in 1912 when a large number of works by local artist Richard Randall were donated by his father. During the 1960s and 1970s more works were added through gifts and purchases when the City Hall Arts and Historical Committee became responsible for development of the Collection. A collection of historical ceramics grew after the appointment of a curator during the 1970s and contemporary works by Brisbane artists were acquired during the 1990s. Since the launch of Museum of Brisbane in 2003, works by contemporary artists and a number of multimedia presentations have been commissioned as part of Museum exhibitions and added to Collection holdings, which now exceed 5000 items.

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