

Museum of Brisbane's *Mao's Last Dancer* exhibition tours to Melbourne

Museum of Brisbane's *Mao's Last Dancer the exhibition: A Portrait of Li Cunxin* will tour to Melbourne opening at the Immigration Museum on 16 June 2018.

Mao's Last Dancer the exhibition: A Portrait of Li Cunxin, which closed on Sunday 29 April, attracted record summer audiences to Museum of Brisbane.

It is also the first exhibition curated by Museum of Brisbane to tour to an interstate venue, as well as being the Museum's first ticketed show.

Museum of Brisbane Director Renai Grace said it was fitting that the exhibition would travel to Melbourne, where Li lived and performed extensively when a Principal Dancer with The Australian Ballet.

"While this current chapter of Li's life is in Brisbane, the exhibition celebrates his extraordinary international story from his poverty-stricken childhood in China, his dramatic defection to the United States, international fame and making a new home in Australia," Ms Grace said.

"The Melbourne Immigration Museum, which focuses on celebrating cultural diversity and showcasing the inspiring stories of individuals who have 'beaten the odds to find a place to call home', approached us to tour the exhibition and we couldn't be happier."

Museums Victoria CEO, Lynley Marshall, a great admirer of Li Cunxin and his work, feels a particular connection to the project.

"We are so very excited to announce this stunning exhibition and are honoured to be presenting Li's story within the fitting walls of Melbourne's Immigration Museum. It has been our delight to work with the Museum of Brisbane on the touring debut of this world-class exhibition," Ms Marshall.

2018 schedule of exhibitions

18 May – 28 October: *Life in Irons: Brisbane's Convict Stories*

22 November - 28 April 2019: *A Designers' Guide: Easton Pearson Archive*

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About Museum of Brisbane

Museum of Brisbane brings our city's vibrant art, culture and history to life through our exhibitions, workshops, tours, talks and children's activities.

Located in City Hall, the Museum is part of the living history of the city, examining how Brisbane and its people change over time and how our individual and collective stories reveal our character and

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create our identity. We are also the keeper of City Hall's rich heritage, and visitors can experience a bird's eye view of Brisbane from the top of the iconic Clock Tower on one of our popular tours, as well as learn the stories behind City Hall during an insider's tour of the 90-year-old building.

Museum of Brisbane is an avid supporter of the city's artists, designers and artisans. We are dedicated to transforming their artistic vision into a stunning reality through our exhibitions and artist-in-residence programs. The work of Brisbane's artists, designers and chefs can also be found at the Museum Shop which stocks a bespoke range of jewellery, fashion accessories, home-wares, design objects, books, artworks and gourmet food products.

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