

Akira Isogawa joins Easton Pearson for MoB fashion forum

Australian fashion legends Akira Isogawa, Pamela Easton and Lydia Pearson join next generation design change agents including James Bartle of Outland Denim, The Social Outfit founder Jackie Ruddock and cult designer Gail Sorronda for Museum of Brisbane's Finding Fashion Forum on Saturday 2 March 2019.

The Finding Fashion Forum brings together fashion designers, makers, academics and influencers to explore fashion's role in shaping a distinctly Australian culture, as well as its potential to bring communities together and advocate for a more ethical and sustainable future.

MoB Director Renai Grace revealed Akira Isogawa would join fellow Australian laureates Pamela Easton and Lydia Pearson, on a panel facilitated by leading fashion commentator Glynis Traill-Nash, to discuss the complicated concept of legacy, as well as sharing some key learnings from their successful careers and hopes for the future of Australian fashion.

"The Finding Fashion Forum is a rare opportunity for those involved in the fashion industry, students and enthusiasts to come together and discuss the key issues for today's sector, learn about some of the exciting projects and people changing the fashion design and manufacturing landscape, and share ideas for a brighter fashion future," Ms Grace said.

"We are delighted to have secured Brisbane-based James Bartle of Outland Denim and Jackie Ruddock of The Social Outfit as keynote speakers for the forum.

"Outland Denim made international headlines when the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, wore a pair of the company's jeans on her recent Australian tour. However, Outland Denim already had a cult following built around the passion of founder James' 'Denim Project', which has been working with young women rescued from sex trafficking to create jeans in Cambodia since 2011.

"Jackie has been changing lives closer to home with The Social Outfit. Founded in Sydney, The Social Outfit provides employment and training in the fashion industry to people from refugee and new migrant communities in fashion production, retail, design and marketing.

"Hearing about these two projects from the two driven individuals who founded them is sure to be an inspiring and moving experience.

"We are also delighted to have Gail Sorronda taking part in the forum. She has established a national following from her Brisbane workshop with her unique, gothic-inspired fashion and is at the forefront of Queensland's next generation of fashion designers."

Presented by Museum of Brisbane in collaboration with Brisbane-based design collective, The Stitchery, the forum is part of an exciting series of events and workshops exploring the role and techniques of contemporary fashion in celebration of the Museum's major summer exhibition, *The Designers' Guide: Easton Pearson Archive*.

The Finding Fashion Forum takes place Saturday 2 March from 9.30am – 4pm. Tickets are \$75 or \$55 for concessions. Bookings essential, visit www.museumofbrisbane.com.au

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Other events taking place at Museum of Brisbane as part of *The Designers' Guide: Easton Pearson Archive* are; the Sunday Stitch Lounge (24 March, 1pm – 4pm | Free) where guests can make and mend inside the Museum's Dome Lounge full of sewing machines and like-minded makers ready to exchange advice and skills; Speed Date A Stylist (22 March, 5.30pm – 8pm | \$20) for mini consultations on how to make the most of your wardrobe and fashion dollars; Behind the Scenes tours (14 and 15 March, 2pm – 4pm | \$45) where guests join the collections and curatorial team for an intimate tour of the exhibition paired with a 'white-gloves' experience; the popular Drawing The Body series (22 February, 8 March, 5 April, 5pm – 7pm | \$20) which has had an EP makeover with facilitator Leigh Buchanan drawing on his own background as a fashion designer to assist participants sketch models wearing their EP garments and sharing the stories and memories of the garments; Curator Tours (15 February, 22 March, 12 April, 5.30pm | \$18, free for season pass holders) which reveal the secrets and stories of the garments; and Designers Tours for a unique perspective from emerging Brisbane fashion designers (7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2pm | \$18, free for season pass holders) where they share their favourite outfits from the exhibition and discuss the creative processes involved.

This season's family activity, Moki Bands, created by Brisbane artist Stephen Mok and inspired by the internationally-acclaimed fashion house, Easton Pearson, has proved a hit with visitors of all ages. Using Stephen's playful paper templates, budding artists are creating headbands and paper crowns fit for the runway, a ninja rumble, jungle throne or a stroll through the city. Come in and make your own. This free activity is on every day until 22 April.

Tickets to *The Designers' Guide: Easton Pearson Archive* (closes 22 April) are now on sale. Prices are \$12 / \$9 for concessions / Children U12 free. Book at museumofbrisbane.com.au.

For further information on What's On at Museum of Brisbane visit <http://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/whats-on/>.

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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, Quandamooka and neighbouring clan groups. 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 curiosity and creativity. 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.

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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