

MEDIA RELEASE

A century of women in Brisbane art unveiled at *New Woman*

Opening on 13 September until 15 March 2020 at Museum of Brisbane, *New Woman* recognises the lives of Brisbane women artists over the past 100 years from the independent and adventurous to the often overlooked, exploring the trailblazing women who have continued to take the lead in Brisbane art.

New Woman presents a snapshot of the art, personal stories and enduring legacies of Brisbane's most significant and ground-breaking women artists between 1920-2019 reflected in painting, photography, sculpture, performance and installation works on a scale never before seen.

Works from leading 1920s artists **Daphne Mayo** and **Vida Lahey** set the scene for the vital role women have played in gaining respect and investment for the arts in Brisbane. Forging a career as a professional artist required strong support networks, and at times personal sacrifice, with many artists leaving Brisbane to gain education and experience before being recognised at home for their artistic talents and achievements.

The exhibition features artworks from more than 80 artists following each decade from Brisbane's decreasing isolation, the introduction of new ideas of modernism and abstraction to internationally regarded contemporary works in a range of media. Brisbane's unique geographic location has always provided its own idiosyncrasies due to its climate and distance from major world cultural centres and so necessitated a resourceful and close-knit arts community that fostered teachers, advocates and leaders in their fields, leaving in their wake a strong legacy for future generations.

Museum of Brisbane Director Renai Grace, said the exhibition will build a richer understanding of the leading role women have played in the cultural life of Brisbane, highlighting their influence and empowering future generations of artists.

"*New Woman* will reveal the stunning works of female pioneers, their evolving practice and the identity of women artists in Brisbane. The exhibition draws upon our collections, loans as well as commissioned works, highlighting women of the past, present and future, documenting their changing role and acknowledging diversity".

The exhibition features a snapshot of artists instrumental in creating change across Brisbane's contemporary art history including: **Tracey Moffatt, Margaret Cilento, Gwendolyn Grant, Carol McGregor, Olive Ashworth, Judy**

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

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Watson, Fiona Foley, Pamela See, Jay Younger, Davida Allen, James Barth, Megan Cope, Sancintya Simpson, Naomi Blacklock, Courtney Coombs, Emma Coulter, Rachael Haynes and Elisa Jane Carmichael.

Paul Spiro, Gadens Queensland Chairman and Museum Partner, said, "All of the artists featured in *New Woman* have played a crucial role in the development of Brisbane. The opportunity for people to experience an exhibition that highlights these leaders, teachers and pioneers is monumental, as well as the contemporary game-changers who continue to explore their practices in anticipation for a changing world".

More than 110 works will be showcased through a salon hang from floor to ceiling, the Dome Gallery will feature a new large-scale, site specific painting by **Emma Coulter** and the Adelaide Street Pavilion includes a self-guided and family-friendly activity space by artist **Rachael Haynes** exploring empowerment and equality. Rachael will also facilitate a series of collaborative banner-making workshops, the results of which will be installed at the Women of the World Festival Brisbane in 2020.

Held in tandem with the exhibition is an ongoing program of workshops, talks and tours led by artists, academics and historians. From life drawing in The Studio, sketching sessions in the gallery, to performances by **Naomi Blacklock** and Museum of Brisbane Artist-in-Residence **Piyali Ghosh**, Museum of Brisbane is providing a range of special events and activities for visitors to engage with the exhibition. The Museum will also be hosting a special morning tea with Chairman Sallyanne Atkinson AO to celebrate a century of women artists. Panel discussions on intersectional feminism, women in architecture, and absence and erasure in art history will also take place as part of the exhibition program.

Accompanying the exhibition is a catalogue featuring an essay by **Louise Martin-Chew** and curator **Miranda Hine**, reflecting on the artists and works featured in the show, as well as the contributions made by notable female artists to the Brisbane art ecology. The *New Woman* catalogue is available for purchase from MoB Shop and online.

New Woman is proudly supported by Gadens, JCDcaux, goa and The Weekend Edition.

New Woman

13 September 2019 - 15 March 2020

FREE entry

For more information visit museumofbrisbane.com.au

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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 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 and designers can also be found at the Museum's MoB Shop which stocks a bespoke range of jewellery, fashion accessories, homewares, design objects, books, and artworks.

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