

MEDIA RELEASE

See Brisbane framed in a new light through a historic and contemporary lens

Shutterbugs capture and expose a city in flux at Museum of Brisbane.

New Light: Photography Now + Then exhibition at Museum of Brisbane (MoB) curates a fascinating spectrum of past and present photography, drawing on its most prolific historic archive, The Alfred Elliott Collection, juxtaposed with fresh takes from contemporary local image-makers.

The Elliott Collection collates the work of amateur photographer **Alfred Henrie Elliott** (1870 – 1954) whose black-and-white imagery capturing a bygone era of Brisbane lay dormant for decades until discovered preserved in cedar cigar boxes under a Red Hill residence in 1983.

New Light: Photography Now + Then will span stills, camera equipment and techniques from 1890 to 2024, highlighting seven Brisbane visual creatives who will reframe Elliott's singular gaze within their diverse perspectives as women, Indigenous, migrant and queer artists.

The new compositions by **Marian Drew, Jo-Anne Driessens, Joachim Froese, Tammy Law, Carl Warner, Nina White** and **Keemon Williams** will add scope, texture and depth to the historic and moody black-and-white photography, complementing notions of time, place, fragility and memory.

Exhibition Curator Elena Dias-Jayasinha said *New Light: Photography Now + Then* offers an exciting opportunity to reexamine one of Museum of Brisbane's most significant historic photography archives through the lens of local visionaries.

"Seven contemporary photographers personally connected to Brisbane have been commissioned to create new works responding to the incredible source material that is the Elliott Collection, while also reflecting on the biases and ambiguities found within the archive," Ms Dias-Jayasinha said.

"By layering their own perspectives, knowledge and experiences onto the collection, the artists will encourage new ways of looking at our past, our present and this place."

In addition to the archival Elliott Collection and new commissioned works, MoB will display an array of black-and-white imagery submissions sourced from the public during a community callout earlier this year, further shaping the storytelling perspectives.

Museum of Brisbane CEO & Director Zoe Graham hopes locals will embrace the new exhibition for the rare portal into the city's history as reflected through art while participating in a collective creative journey.

"At the heart of *New Light: Photography Now + Then* lies a dynamic conversation between the past and present where historic photographs and contemporary responses intertwine to tell powerful stories," Ms Graham said.

"This exhibition not only honours our rich heritage but also invites the community to contribute their own narratives, creating a vibrant tapestry of shared experiences."

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said the *New Light: Photography Now + Then* exhibition captures an ever-evolving city across 134 years with evocative imagery and fleeting details that allow locals and visitors to see Brisbane in a new context.

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

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“With the power to freeze and preserve time, *New Light: Photography Now + Then* is a visual storytelling snapshot of place that will ignite imaginations and create a lingering impact,” Cr Schrinner said.

“From the Elliott Collection’s treasure trove of original negatives, prints and equipment to nuanced new photography perspectives by local lens-makers and community-sourced black-and-white images, this latest exhibition at Museum of Brisbane captures the many intriguing ways we view ourselves and our city.”

–ENDS–

Details:

New Light: Photography Now + Then

Saturday 17 August 2024 – Friday 16 May 2025

Tickets: Free entry

Museum of Brisbane, Level 3, City Hall

From archival footage to contemporary compositions and public submissions, *New Light: Photography Now + Then* is a multi-layered and moving visual representation of Brisbane’s past and present.

Interviews are available with Zoe Graham (CEO/Director), Elena Dias-Jayasinha (Curator) and artists on request.

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About Museum of Brisbane

Housed within iconic Brisbane City Hall, Museum of Brisbane (MoB) celebrates the creatives and history makers to deepen an understanding of place. We reflect Brisbane’s people and passions and its ever-evolving cultures. Museum of Brisbane is Brisbane City Council’s leading history and art museum, where you can experience our city’s vibrant culture. museumofbrisbane.com.au

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