

MEDIA RELEASE



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Mosman Art Gallery celebrates 20 years

Tuesday 11 December 2018 was the 20th anniversary of the opening of Mosman Art Gallery (MAG), one of Sydney's leading cultural institutions. Officially opened by His Excellency the Honourable Sir William Deane, AC, KBE Governor-General of Australia in 1988, the Gallery has enjoyed an enviable reputation for excellence in its program of visual art exhibitions and associated activities

Over the last 20 years the Gallery has been a place of connection for the community and beyond, with over 1 million people visiting since 1988. MAG has provided valuable experiences which have enriched and inspired the Mosman community, through more than 300 exhibitions, as well as countless public and education programs, and the Mosman Art Collection.

With its focus on contemporary art, heritage, First Nations, new technologies and community access, the Gallery's artistic program has earned several significant industry awards over the last two decades, including awards for MAG's recent major exhibitions; *Tokkotai*, *Destination Sydney* and *Bungaree's Farm*. During this period, the Gallery's signature event, the Mosman Art Prize, has also grown to be one of Australia's most prestigious local government awards.

In its former life the Gallery building was a Methodist Church designed by Burcham Clamp and Walter Burley Griffin, and built in 1915. In 1997 the building was leased to Mosman Council for 75 years and in recognition of the building's valued heritage, architect Hugh Fraser was commissioned to undergo adaptive design work to create the Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre, bringing to fruition the vision of an extensive community consultation process. While still retaining its original architectural integrity and beauty, such as the Grand Hall, the building underwent further refurbishments in 2012, providing the gallery with five dedicated exhibition spaces.

During this time of celebration local artists, community members and MAG staff have reflected on MAG's 20th anniversary;

John Cheeseman, Director, Mosman Art Gallery

"It is extraordinary when you reflect on how Mosman Art Gallery has become one of the great success stories of culture in Australia. While firmly linked to our community, the Gallery team has built a reputation second to none and we continue to be recognised nationally and internationally for the quality and scope of our work. Over the past 20 years the Gallery has presented over three hundred exhibitions, has welcomed more than one million visitors and has won over fifteen national and international awards. And at the same time, the community remains at the heart of what we do – telling local stories, reflecting on the past, encouraging participation and celebrating the great artists, artistic traditions and collections of our region. At twenty years, the Gallery is still relatively young and has a bright future ahead."

Dr John Yu AC, art collector

"We all love to see the real thing, especially art but many in our community are limited by physical handicap, family commitments especially young families and the varied restrictions of age. That is why our local art gallery is so important. It helps us keep in touch with art and the continuing changes that take place."

Ken Done AM, artist

"Everyone in Mosman should be immensely proud of the Mosman Art Gallery. The dedication of the director and staff has made Mosman Art Gallery a focal point for the appreciation of art of the past and present, with clues to the future. It is a great part of the community."

Ann Cape, artist

"The Mosman Art Gallery is a vital hub of creative influence and a valuable centre of community involvement. It is a meeting ground and educational resource for all ages and sections of the community, from groups stimulating those with dementia and school children, to providing major local and nationally significant exhibitions."

Michelle Belgiorno, artist

"We are lucky to have such a dynamic Regional Gallery which regularly hosts significant national-class exhibitions but which also actively supports and encourages local Mosman artists. The Gallery plays an important role enriching Mosman's cultural fabric."

On 8 December, the Gallery celebrated this significant milestone by hosting a free community party to coincide with the opening of its current major exhibition *Destination Sydney: Re-imagined*. Over 400 visitors attended the successful event which included music, food and art-making activities lead by Sydney artist and previous MAG exhibitor Rosie Deacon.

For more information about Mosman Art Gallery at its programs visit www.mosmanartgallery.org.au



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Mosman
COUNCIL