

## Press Release – 1770 Art Show announces the 2021 Guest Judge.

For a record eighth consecutive year, exhibitors at the 1770 Art Show for 2021 will be judged by a senior member of our leading state gallery. Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) Assistant Director , Mr. Simon Wright, has accepted the role of viewing and determining award recipients, and might even offer some gentle feedback in the process.

“It’s a great privilege and responsibility to be invited and we take really seriously our role in supporting creative communities all over Queensland. I’m lucky enough to hold Regional Services in my portfolio at QAGOMA and there is nothing better than being in rural and remote areas throughout Queensland to look and learn, but also to offer professional support, advice and advocacy, when our country cousins need it most,’ Mr Wright said.

‘The 1770 Art Show is one of the finest examples of a community organized exhibition event anywhere in the country, run by passionate and well experienced volunteers who galvanise local businesses and government by attracting cultural tourism and local spending, and who support the arts while generating outcomes for charity and community groups”.

Wright has observed there is so much vital energy, skill and wit among artist communities spread around vast areas like North Queensland, that ‘it’s important our creative types get seen and considered by the public with their peers at shows like this one’.

“Special showcases like the 1770 Art Show, especially, facilitate access and visibility for makers that otherwise becomes very limited outside major cities. And they need these things to forge a path, whether that’s toward self-development and fulfilment, improved health and wellbeing, or toward a career”, he said. “I’m so looking forward to visiting the show again and seeing new works by a range of artists I may have never had the chance to see”.

Simon is a highly skilled leader who has over 25 years’ experience working in Galleries and Museums in Australia. Simon has held public engagement, exhibition, curatorial and management positions in public gallery, museum and art dealing realms since 1993. Currently Assistant Director (Learning + Public Engagement) at QAGOMA, he has worked on over 300 exhibition, programming and publication projects. He is the recipient of a Museums Australia Individual Achievement Award, an Australia Business Arts Foundation Partnerships Award, and served on The Commissioner’s Council for Australia for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale. He is a recent alumnus of the Asialink Business Leaders Program, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane

Simon will arrive on Monday May 17th to view the artworks on display and make his decisions as to the Section awards. Simon has graciously agreed to be in attendance on opening night, Wednesday, May 19th, and will be available to talk with artists and guests on a walking tour of the art works on display after the announcement of the 2021 winners.

This will be his second visit as a judge to the 1770 Art Show.

Entry Forms for the 2021, 1770 Art Show will be accepted until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Entry Forms will be available from mid December 2020 and can be found at local art-related venues and shops including the Gladstone and Bundaberg Art Galleries, ArtPlus Bundaberg, Gladstone framing, art supply stores in Gladstone and Bundaberg, the Information Centre in Agnes Water and the Bendigo Bank branch in Agnes Water, as well as online at [1770artshow.com.au](http://1770artshow.com.au).