

MEDIA RELEASE

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Inspired by QVMAG collections, six distinguished artists explore memory and materiality

Beyond the vast and mysterious doors of QVMAG lies an extraordinary collection of rare specimens, set to entice the imaginations of adults and children alike. Awe-inspiring meteorites, crystals, snake skins, dinosaur bones and rare exotic specimens sleepily await brave visitors.

Artworks inspired by these precious QVMAG collections will be proudly displayed at a new exhibition opening this weekend at the City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Six talented artists ventured into the hidden depths of QVMAG, transforming their inspirations into an exhibition rich with science, history, poetry and narrative.

Material Memories brings together interdisciplinary practitioners that specialise in creating works that blur the boundaries between art, craft and design.

Susan Buchanan, Janine Combes, Eli Giannini and Sarah Stubbs fashioned works that merge contemporary art with jewellery making. Penelope Davis works on the cusp of contemporary photography and sculptural installation, and Robyn Pelan excelled in crafting her ceramic pieces.

Convict cuffs, arrow rings and Tasmanian identity neckpieces are just a few of the exciting items showcased, each piece telling stories of place and visual memory.

QVMAG Visual Art and Design Curator Ashleigh Whatling explained that QVMAG has enriched the artistic culture of the city, inspiring and educating Tasmanians for over a century.

"*Material Memories* is an extraordinary collection, greatly influenced by contemporary art, natural science and 40,000 years of human history on offer at QVMAG. These six artists have created wonderful pieces that reflect this beloved and respected institution."

"Come along and see the QVMAG legacy expressed through the artwork it fosters. The exhibition opens on Saturday and runs until September."

Please contact City of Launceston Communications Manager Simon Tennant on 0447 664 945 for more information or to arrange a photo opportunity.