

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: Friday 8 September, 2017

New exhibition to delight quilt enthusiasts

If you are intrigued by the artistic possibilities of fabric and stitch, listen up.

A major quilting exhibition is opening this weekend at the City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

A collection of bold, intricate and colourful contemporary quilts and textile artworks will adorn the walls of the Art Gallery at Royal Park as part of *Art Quilt Australia 2017*.

Sponsored by Ozquilt Network Inc, the biennial exhibition is designed to encourage artists whose practice demonstrates originality, quality, integrity and creativity, resulting in significant work with real visual impact and depth of meaning.

Entries for the exhibition were received from every state as well as New Zealand, USA, Germany and South America. Nearly 50 finalists were selected, with a wide range of ideas and techniques represented.

A panel of artists have judged each entry for its qualities, and the winning quilt will be announced tonight at the official opening.

Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten has welcomed the exhibition organisers and participating artists to the city.

"These amazing works of art, painstakingly created and displayed across two galleries at QVMAG, are sure to impress the community. Many works are not what you'd expect in a quilt," Mayor van Zetten says.

"The materials, colours and techniques used to create this fantastic exhibition are simply incredible, and there's an amazing breadth of talent and skill on display; it's a real blaze of colour and creativity.

"Quilting is a growing artistic pursuit for many people across Australia and Tasmania. It's been said quilting is not a hobby; it's an obsession. It's a fantastic outlet for creativity, and I think there will be many Northern Tasmanians who will take a great interest in what's on offer at the *Art Quilt Australia 2017* exhibition."

The exhibition starts on Saturday 9 September and is on show until 22 October 2017.

The Mayor and exhibition coordinator Margery Goodall will be available for interview today at 10am at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.