

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Strange exhibition reveals early Launceston

Some of the earliest depictions of Launceston by a former convict, originally trained as a portrait and house painter in England, have been brought together for a new exhibition at the Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park. The exhibition contains a number of works not seen before.

The Enigmatic Mr Strange, Creating a Past: The life and art of Frederick Strange c. 1807-1873 features some of the most important images of Launceston and the environs from the early 1840s to the early 1860s.

These include public buildings, homesteads, churches, the Tamar River, Cataract Gorge and large views of the city.

Artist Frederick Strange was transported from Nottingham, England to Van Diemen's Land after committing a series of burglaries in 1837. Strange was granted a leave pass for good behaviour and arrived in Launceston in 1841.

He became recognised for his portraiture and landscapes, and remains known for his mysterious demeanour.

Guest Curator and Honorary Research Associate Yvonne Adkins says throughout his life of exile Frederick Strange left some of the most important early views of Launceston in oil and watercolour. Many would have been selected under the guidance of local citizens and those for whom he painted portraits.

QVMAG Director Richard Mulvaney hopes the exhibition may help uncover other works by Strange.

"We believe there are more portraits and landscapes by Frederick Strange yet to be discovered, especially as he didn't sign his paintings. We welcome any assistance in tracking down these lost works."

The exhibition officially opens at the Art Gallery on Monday June 19 and runs until November 5.

Yvonne Adkins and QVMAG Director Richard Mulvaney will be available for interview today at 12pm at the [Art Gallery at Royal Park](#).