



**HETTI PERKINS and CAMPBELLTOWN ARTS CENTRE
recognised with the
2017 ICOM AUSTRALIA AWARDS**

Senior Indigenous, Hetti Perkins and the Campbelltown Arts Centre have received prestigious International Council of Museums Australia awards, recognising their respective contributions to international engagement and innovative cultural projects.

ICOM Australia Awards celebrate outstanding work undertaken by Australian individuals and institutions that strengthens international relations and contributes to the cultural richness of museums and galleries.

The 2017 ICOM awards were announced on 16th May 2017 at the Museums Galleries Australia (MGA) conference in Brisbane by ICOM Australia Chair, Alec Coles OBE.

A senior cultural advisor on national and international arts projects, Hetti Perkins has received the 2017 ICOM Individual Award.

“Hetti Perkins has enjoyed a distinguished career in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art for over twenty years and continues to make a remarkable contribution to museum practice nationally and internationally – she is a worthy recipient of this award.” said Mr Coles.

An Arrernte and Kalkadoon woman, Hetti Perkins curated many exhibitions while working at the Art Gallery of New South Wales between 1989 and 2011. She also co-curated significant international exhibitions including *fluent* at the Venice Biennale and major art commissions for the new Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.

Hetti Perkins said “I am honoured to accept this award in recognition of the artists whom I have had the privilege of working for over the past decades, and I dedicate it to the memory of those who have passed away. Kele Mwerre”

The 2017 ICOM Institution Award has gone to Campbelltown Arts Centre for the project *With Secrecy and Despatch*.

Designed to mark the 200th anniversary of the Appin Massacre in NSW in 2016, *With Secrecy and Despatch* was a unique cross-cultural collaboration between the Campbelltown Arts Centre and the Canada Council for the Arts. It involved the local Dharawal community and First Nations curators Tess Allas (Australia) and David Garneau (Canada).

The exhibition featured both historic and commissioned works. Six Aboriginal Australian artists – Tony Albert, Vernon Ah Kee, Julie Gough, Genevieve Grieves, Dale Harding and Frances Belle Parker and four First Nations Canadian artists – Jordan Bennett, Cheryl L’Hirondelle, Marianne Nicolson and Adrian Stimson were invited to produce new work reflecting on the two nations’ shared histories of frontier violence.

“This ground-breaking exhibition employed creative techniques to both acknowledge the Appin Massacre and place it in a global context, allowing visitors to reflect on how far the community has come, and how we can work towards further reconciliation – many congratulations to Campbelltown Art Centre Director, Michael Dagostino, his team and his international collaborators.” said Mr Coles.

“Our role is to tell the story and bring together communities to share in projects that are universally important and relevant, and *With Secrecy and Despatch* achieved this on many levels. Campbelltown Arts Centre are thrilled to be the recipients of such a prestigious award.” said Michael Dagostino, Director.

A possible Canadian tour of *With Secrecy and Despatch* is under discussion.

Background

Individual Award - for impact on an international level

This Award is for an outstanding individual achievement recognising significant international engagement and inspirational contribution to Australia’s cultural life. The Individual Award is open to any professional individual who has contributed significantly to the museum and/or gallery sector.

Institution Award - for an innovative project

This Award is for an innovative project completed in the last twelve months (January to December 2016) or an ongoing initiative that has realised a major milestone in 2016. Projects or initiatives can be from any area of museum and gallery practice (including curatorial, collection management, exhibitions and display, museum management, audience engagement, public programs, digital content, marketing, research, sponsorship, education, training or professional development). The Institution Award is open to museums and galleries or partner organisations including educational institutions or non-government organisations. Individuals and/or teams can be recognised by this Award.