

Australian Museum Wins Two IMAGInE Awards for *Unsettled* Exhibition

Laura McBride, Director, First Nations, recognised for curatorial excellence



Sydney, 26 November, 2021. The Australian Museum (AM) and Director, First Nations, Laura McBride were awarded two of the top prizes in the 2021 IMAGInE awards for the ground-breaking exhibition, *Unsettled*. Named *Winner for Exhibition Project, Large Museums*, and also receiving the *ACHAA Award for Excellence by an Aboriginal Curator*, the IMAGInE awards recognised the breadth of curatorial research and the quality, scale and creativity of the *Unsettled* exhibition. The awards, given to NSW and ACT Museums and Galleries, were announced last night.

Appointed Director, First Nations in March, 2021, the IMAGInE awards caps off an amazing few years for McBride, a Wailwan and Kooma woman.

“I am honoured to have won the Excellence by an Aboriginal curator award, which is decided by mob. I want to thank all the many community members who shared their knowledge and stories within *Unsettled*,” McBride said.

“Driven by the desire to present our stories, in our own voices, myself and co-curator, Dr Mariko Smith have spent the past three years developing, researching, consulting and checking the content for *Unsettled*.”

“Winning these awards along with the industry peer recognition is a wonderful way to celebrate the efforts, creativity and passion the whole AM team have put into *Unsettled*,” McBride added.

Director and CEO, Australian Museum, Kim McKay AO, congratulated McBride and the AM team for their achievements.

“The *Unsettled* exhibition is a world class example of First Nations curation, and we are very proud to be recognised with these awards.”

“*Unsettled* opened in May 2021, to record crowds and reviews demonstrating that excellence and innovation can provide transformative experiences. The story told in *Unsettled* is one which every Australian should see and it’s why we’ve made it free to the public.”

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Unsettled is open until 27 January, 2022 and free to all visitors. The exhibition is complemented by rich program of activities and workshops to deepen the experience. See here: <https://australian.museum/visit/whats-on/>

Unsettled exhibition was made possible through the generous donations received from The Balnaves Foundation (Major Supporter); IAS Fine Art Logistics, Reconciliation Australia (Exhibition Partners); Ashurst, DLA Piper, Gilbert + Tobin (Supporting Partners); and ABC Radio Sydney (Media Partner). The acquisition of cultural materials for *Signal Fires* was funded by a grant from the Australian Museum Foundation.

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About the Australian Museum

The Australian Museum (AM) was founded in 1827 and is the nation's first museum. It is internationally recognised as a natural science and culture institution focused on Australia and the Pacific. The AM's mission is to ignite wonder, inspire debate and drive change. The AM's vision is to be a leading voice for the richness of life, the Earth and culture in Australia and the Pacific. The AM commits to transforming the conversation around climate change, the environment and wildlife conservation; to being a strong advocate for First Nations cultures; and to continuing to develop world-leading science, collections, exhibitions and education programs. With more than 21.9 million objects and specimens and the Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI), the AM is not only a dynamic source of reliable scientific information on some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges facing our region, but also an important site of cultural exchange and learning. <https://australianmuseum.net.au/>

About IMAGinE:

Established in 2008 the IMAGinE Awards celebrate the achievements and extraordinary diversity of the NSW and ACT museum and gallery sector and those who work within it, both paid and volunteer staff. Comprising of over 650 organisations and approximately 5000 paid and volunteer workers, these galleries and museums also provide a major contributions to their local communities, economies and cultural life as well as playing an important role in tourism across urban and regional NSW and the ACT

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