

MEDIA ALERT

Thursday 11 February, 2016



New Gallery Director appointed



Tracy Cooper-Lavery new Gallery Director Gold Coast City Gallery

Mr Kerry Watson, Chairman of the Board of The Arts Centre Gold Coast today announced Tracy Cooper-Lavery as the new Gallery Director of Gold Coast City Gallery.

'I am pleased to announce this new appointment. Tracy joins us from the Rockhampton Regional Gallery where she was Gallery Director for four and a half years and where she has tripled audiences and increased sponsorship support for their gallery program,' said Kerry Watson.

Tracy Cooper-Lavery originally started her career at the Gold Coast City Gallery as a Curator back in 1992. She then went on to take up the position of Senior Curator at Bendigo Art Gallery which is considered to be one of the shining examples of regional galleries in Australia.

'I began my arts career at Gold Coast City Gallery and I have keenly watched the Gallery's development and progress over many years. To lead the gallery in Queensland's second-biggest city is the dream of a lifetime! I am excited to be working with the Arts Centre Board, Management and the City Council to drive the forthcoming development to a new space and refurbishment of the current Gallery spaces in preparation for the Commonwealth Games' said Tracy Cooper-Lavery.

Her addition to the already immensely talented gallery team comes at a transitioning time for the Gallery that is set to move to a new space, Riverside.

'I am looking forward to working with the Gallery team to broaden the focus of exhibitions and programming, increase visitation through engagement and accessibility, and highlighting the Gallery's collection. The Gold Coast City Gallery has an incredible collection of Australian art, and coupled with the development of the Gold Coast Cultural

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Precinct I feel there is no better time to be part of the evolution of the Gold Coast into a destination for art and culture.'

Tracy Cooper-Lavery was appointed as Director of Rockhampton Art Gallery in August 2011 where she has been responsible for transforming the Gallery's profile on a local, state and national level.

She has worked in the regional art museum sector for more than twenty years including the position of Senior Curator at Bendigo Art. She was appointed President of the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland in 2014 and was recently selected as a Board Member of Museums & Galleries Queensland.

She has curated numerous exhibitions on Australian and international art and was instrumental in presenting high-profile international exhibitions at Bendigo Art Gallery including *The Golden Age of Couture: Paris and London 1947-1957* (Victoria and Albert Museum, London) and *Cecil Beaton: Portraits* (National Portrait Gallery, London). Her projects at Rockhampton Art Gallery have included the national touring exhibition *Cream: Four decades of Australian art*, *The Prince: Michael Zavros*, *Dreaming of Deco: Style in the modern age* and the development of Queensland's richest art prize *The Gold Award*.

Tracy holds a Masters in Creative Arts from James Cook University as well as a post-graduate degree in Museum Studies and a Bachelor of Visual Arts.

Tracy will commence as Gallery Director, Gold Coast City Art Gallery on April 4, 2016.

For all media enquires please contact -

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