

MEDIA RELEASE



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Cross River Rail will be a world-class celebration of cultural heritage

- Four new underground stations to feature 14 separate artworks by some of Queensland's most celebrated and acclaimed Indigenous artists.
- Will be one of the most unique collections of Queensland's Indigenous art ever put together.
- Brisbane's new underground will not only be a piece of critical public transport infrastructure, but also a permanent and noteworthy Indigenous 'art trail'.

Cross River Rail's four new underground stations will feature 13 artworks by 12 of Queensland's most renowned Indigenous artists, creating a celebration of the state's cultural heritage not seen anywhere else.

The works will adorn key features of the new stations at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street, including the walls near the stations' escalators, on the platform screen doors and elevators, and in the public areas around the stations.

Roma Street will also feature a huge standalone monumental art wall, measuring 34 metres long and 13 metres high.

The art was selected by highly regarded curator Barbara Flynn and a panel of museum directors and other cultural leaders, and included consultation with Turrbal and Jagera representatives.

Each piece of art has been created by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists either born or residing in Queensland, and each artist is highly celebrated and renowned in their own right.

In a significant milestone for the project, huge glazed panels have already been installed at Woolloongabba to create the first piece of art in Cross River Rail's stations.

The piece, titled "*plants, waters, gathering time*" by Quandamooka (Ngugi) artist Elisa Jane Carmichael, is made up of 108 panels varying in size but up to 2.7 metres long and 1.8 metres wide. The impressive artwork will greet future passengers as they descend the escalators at Woolloongabba.

All 14 artworks can be explored online at a new Cross River Rail Station Art website, which can be found [here](#).

Quotes attributed to Transport Minister Bart Mellish:

“Cross River Rail will transform how we travel in the future, and at the same time honour our state’s rich cultural heritage.

“It means Queensland largest infrastructure project will also becoming a compelling underground ‘art line’, celebrating the world’s oldest continuous culture.

“There was a determined vision from the outset that art in these stations would honour our state’s First Nations people.

“So to have secured 14 separate pieces of art from 13 significant Indigenous artists of different ages and Country right across the state is tremendously exciting.

“Just like each piece of art is diverse, so too are the stories they tell.

“The art is a mix of traditional and contemporary works that speaks to important themes for not just First Nations Queenslanders, but all Queenslanders.

“There are stories about spiritual connections, discrimination, reconciliation, peace, conflict, resistance, survival and respect for and celebration of culture.”

Quotes attributed to Cross River Rail Delivery Authority CEO Graeme Newton:

“These pieces of art will ensure Cross River Rail’s new underground stations become meaningful landmarks for more than how they will improve transport and liveability across South East Queensland.

“The art will become synonymous with each of the stations they’re based in and around, while Cross River Rail will become an indigenous ‘art trail’ not seen anywhere else.

“The monumental art wall, the escalator wall art and the public realm art will all be statement pieces in their own right, while the platform screen door and elevator visual indicators will be the first thing people see when they pull into the underground stations.

“The indicators, while looking incredible, also serve an important functional purpose as a means of helping people with low or no vision find the platform screen doors and elevators.

“Thank you to each of the artists for taking the time to contribute in such a meaningful way to this transformational project.”

Quotes attributed to Waanyi artist Judy Watson:

“The Roma Street site includes stories of large gatherings of Aboriginal people in this area.

“There were sporting contests (‘pullen pullen’), sharing of food such as the Bunya nuts during Bonyi Bonyi ceremonies and cultural exchange; and there was also conflict and frontier violence.

“I imagine people moving through the space of the station and encountering this wall work and as they move along and up the escalator, different aspects of this piece will reveal themselves.

“Some of the imagery is subtle and hidden and will slowly come forward after multiple journeys by the commuters.

“Or the viewers might want to experience the work more closely and learn more about the rich history of this place.”

Quotes attributed to Quandamooka (Ngugi people) artist Elisa Jane Carmichael:

“It’s an honour to join so many other respected senior First Nations artists to help tell the stories of the rich cultural heritage where these new stations are being built.

“As Judy Watson’s work does, what I’ve created for Woolloongabba is all about acknowledging the area as meeting place of great spiritual significance to First Nations peoples.

“While it is exciting to think of what the new stations mean for the city, it’s important we also acknowledge and honour the past.”

Artists to feature in and around Cross River Rail’s underground stations –

- **D Harding** – Bidjara, Ghungalu and Garingbal; born in Moranbah – Roma Street monumental art wall and mirror pond in Roma Street plaza.
- **Judy Watson** – Waanyi people; born in Munduberra – Roma Street station escalator wall.
- **Elisa Jane Carmichael** – Quandamooka (Ngugi people); born in Meanjin/Brisbane – Woolloongabba escalator wall.
- **Teho Ropeyarn** – Angkamuthi and Yadhaykana clans from Injinoo, Cape York Peninsula, Woppaburra people and Batchulla people; born in Mount Isa – Boggo Road escalator wall.
- **Paula Savage** – From Kubin community, Moa Island, Torres Strait; Serganilgal clan group and the Kaurareg Nation; born on Moa Island – Albert Street escalator wall.
- **Megan Cope** – Quandamooka people (Noonuccal and Ngugi); born in Meanjin/Brisbane – Albert Street station escalator wall.
- **Gordon Hookey** – Waanyi people; born in Cloncurry – Albert Street platform screen door and elevator visual indicators.
- **Brian Robinson** – Maluyilgal people, Torres Strait and Wuthathi people of Shelburne Bay, easter Cape York Peninsula; born in Waiben, Thursday Island – Boggo Road platform screen door and elevator visual indicators.
- **Naomi Hobson** –Kaantju/Umpila, Cape York Peninsula; born in Carins – Woolloongabba platform screen door and escalator visual indicators.
- **Dylan Mooney** – Yuwi, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander; born in Mackay – Roma Street platform screen door and elevator visual indicators.
- **Jennifer Herd** – Mbarbarrum; born in Meanjin/Brisbane – Albert Street plaza.
- **Tamika Grant-Iramu** – Torres Strait Islander heritage; born in Meanjin/Brisbane – Boggo Road plaza.
- **Jody Rallah** – yuggera-yugggerabul and biri-binda; born in Magandjin/Brisbane – Woolloongabba plaza.

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