

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **MAKING ART WORK: CREATIVE STIMULUS FOR UNPRECEDENTED TIMES**

**An ambitious new commissioning program by the Institute of Modern Art (IMA) will support Queensland artists to continue making work through the global pandemic and resulting economic shutdown, inspired by Depression-era economic stimulus.**

*Making Art Work*, will see over 40 artists create new works that reflect on the value of creative labour in a time where the cultural and economic value of art has been brought to the political fore.

Supported by the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, the IMA will commission new artworks, texts, workshops, products, offsite and ephemeral projects, and more. Taking place across 2020 (during and post-isolation) the resulting artwork will be presented via an online platform, a publication, and at the Judith Wright Arts Centre gallery space

Once the galleries re-open, the IMA Belltower program in the Judith Wright Arts Centre gallery space will be the project hub, acting as an open-form space for artists to develop work, visitors to engage in public programs, and new experimental projects to take place.

*Making Art Work* proposes an experimental role for the institution as administrators of economic stimulus for artists. Drawing on the historical model of the Roosevelt administration's New Deal Federal Art Projects of the 1930s and 40s, this expansive project reimagines the idea of 'relief measures' for the artists working in the 21st century. *Making Art Work* gives Queensland artists not only economic assistance, but a means to foster solidarity and demonstrate the public 'use' of art and the art institution.

In an institutional first, IMA staff from across the organisation have collaboratively developed *Making Art Work* and will act as curators to manage the different streams of the project.

IMA Director Liz Nowell says, "Supporting artists has and always will be at the heart of what we do at the IMA. This project is a way for us to provide some economic support for artists, as well as offer solidarity to a vulnerable sector. We have reallocated resources and adapted roles within the organisation to provide opportunities to as many artists as possible."

Arts Minister Leeanne Enoch said the Palaszczuk Government was investing \$50,000 in the initiative, as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to Queensland artists.

"This project will create employment for Queensland artists during a difficult time for the sector, and will capture the value of the arts in enhancing our shared experience of isolation," Minister Enoch said.

“*Making Art Work* extends the IMA Belltower pilot project which kicked off last year with funding of \$150,000 from the Queensland Government, and which commissioned works for a new gallery space at the Judith Wright Arts Centre and for external projections.

“I encourage Queensland artists to respond to the call out for this important initiative,” she said.

An open call for additional projects will open in June, inviting proposals from Queensland artists to engage with the themes of the project in their work. Running across this ambitious program will be a publication project documenting *Making Art Work* to be released in 2021, which will contextualise the initiative as an institutional response to crisis.

Artists, writers, and facilitators engaged in the first round are: Tony Albert, Kieron Anderson, Mariam Arcilla, Richard Bell, Julian Day, Σgg√e|n, Hannah Gartside, Mindy Gill, Kinly Grey, Susan Hawkins, Sally Olds, Amy Sargeant, and Des Skordilis. The first round of commissions will be launched 8 June 2020 at [makingart.work](http://makingart.work).

*Making Art Work* is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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**Note to editors:**

A press pack of images can be downloaded [here](#).

**About the IMA:**

The Institute of Modern Art is Australia’s longest-running contemporary art gallery of its kind and has been the hub of Brisbane’s contemporary art scene since 1975. The gallery presents an annual program of exhibitions, public programs, publications, and offsite programs by Queensland, Australian, and international artists.

The IMA is supported by the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, the Australian Government through Australia Council for the Arts, and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian Federal, State, and Territory Governments. The IMA is a member of Contemporary Art Organisations Australia.

**Key dates:**

**Online Platform:** [makingart.work](http://makingart.work)

Round One commissions launched: Monday 8 June 2020

Round Two commissions launched: Monday 10 August 2020

Round Three commissions launched: Monday 12 October 2020

Round Four commissions launched: Monday 7 December 2020

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