

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release:

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GALLERY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF QUEENSLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



Image: Geoffrey Powell
Construction of Story Bridge, Brisbane, 1939. printed 2005.
Gelatin silver photograph on paper ed. 5/25
50.6 x 39.7cm 21.9 x 33cm (comp.)
Purchased 2005
Collection: Queensland Art Gallery

One hundred and fifty years of photography in Queensland is celebrated in an exhibition of images from the Queensland Art Gallery's collection.

Premier and Minister for the Arts Anna Bligh said '150 Years: Photography in Queensland' highlighted the establishment of Queensland as a state and the concurrent rise to prominence of the photographic medium.

'The exhibition, now showing until October 4, 2009, is a Gallery initiative as part of Queensland's Q150 celebrations and it provides a fascinating record of the state's development since its establishment in 1859.

'It's an intriguing documentation of people, landscapes and lifestyles from the Gold Coast to the far north. Audiences will encounter images that capture crucial moments in the state's history, such as the construction of Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge and the devastating effects of Cyclone Larry,' Ms Bligh said.

Queensland Art Gallery Director Tony Ellwood said the Gallery had been actively developing its collection of photography since the early 1970s, with the first images gifted by the Photography Society of Queensland.

'These images represent some key highlights of the collection. From the earliest albumen prints of colonial Queensland to pictorial and artistic photographs of the early 20th century to diverse examples of contemporary photography, this exhibition demonstrates the diverse approaches to the medium, and recognises it as a vital artistic form,' he said.

'Earliest works include Richard Daintree's images of a young Queensland, similar to his photographs that were shown at the London International Exhibition in 1872 to attract immigrants to the colony. Other works from this period show the indigenous and colonial Queenslanders who forged the identity of the state, at work and at rest.

'Later works by pictorialist photographers such as Rose Simmonds and FG Crook-King reveal a modernist influence, with emphasis on machines forms, clean lines and unusual angles and juxtapositions.

'The exhibition includes selections from the 'Journeys north' portfolio, commissioned by the Gallery for Australia's Bicentennial celebrations and showing how six photographers captured the diversity of Queensland, and more recent works by contemporary artists Martin Smith and Francesca Rosa.'

‘150 Years: Photography in Queensland from the Gallery’s Collection’ is delivered as part of the ongoing partnership with Xstrata Coal through the Xstrata Coal Queensland Artists’ Gallery program, and will be complemented by the first Xstrata Coal Talking Queensland Art Tour program of lectures and talks, travelling to selected venues in regional Queensland.

‘150 Years: Photography in Queensland from the Gallery’s Collection’ is sponsored by Xstrata Coal.

For more information visit www.qag.qld.gov.au

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