

MEDIA RELEASE

## Best Places Across Australia to See Street Art Unveiled

**Eight public art experiences have been recognised as the best in the country for art-loving visitors at the Australian Street Art Awards last night on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.**

The Gold Award winners of the **2020 Australia Street Art Awards**, a Tourism Awards for Public Art program, include remote artworks up to 450 kilometres from their state capital.

Heading the list was South Australia's Karoonda Silo Art – an Australian first with its 'mural by day, permanent projection by night' format. It was announced as the Best of the Best after taking out the Best Mega Mural category earlier in the evening.

The Best of the Best is handed to the Gold Winner that impressed the judges the most, as determined by the highest cumulative score from all category winners.

A street art trail created during COVID lockdown in early 2020, a collection of 20 utes painted by outback artists, a mural that has recreated a corner from the 1850s, and a memorial that honours the first Allied soldier to step ashore at Gallipoli are amongst the Gold Winners.

The Australian Street Art Awards encourages Australians to explore the world-class street and public art that is safely accessible all year round and found in every corner of the country.

With rigorous judging by tourism and public art leaders from across Australia, plus second-tier auditing and due diligence, a win has the credence of the art tourism sector.

Commenting on the artworks that were recognised last night, judges said, "These pieces are contributing significantly to making Australia a more vibrant, creative and interesting country – somewhere visitors want to explore more keenly".

Arts tourists from within Australia are high value visitors – they stay 42.8% longer and spend 55.9% more when travelling than domestic tourists overall, according to the Australia Council for the Arts' Domestic Art Tourism: Connecting the Country 2020 Report.

Awards Director, Liz Rivers, added "Australia has a long history of creating superlative public art that captivates visitors. Until these Awards were launched in 2019 there had never been a way of rewarding and supporting places like Karoonda that created these art-related experiences for travellers".

"Public art has now come into its own with people journeying hundreds or sometimes thousands of kilometres to experience a silo art trail or see a sculpture in an extraordinary landscape, such as the desert," Ms Rivers said.

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“Free outdoor activities have also gained favour over the past year. That makes trips to see outdoor murals, sculptures, monuments and mega pieces like silo art the perfect holiday thrill,” she said.

2020 Gold Winners:

- Best Mega Mural: Karoonda Silo Art, Karoonda SA
- Best External Mural: Kapunda Lucas Street Mural, Kapunda SA
- Best Landmark Sculpture: 'Language of the Land”, Eidsvold QLD
- Best Metropolitan Art: Mindeerup Public Art, South Perth WA
- Best Monument or Memorial: Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial, Maryborough, QLD
- Best Rural Art: Yelarbon Graincorp Silo Art, Yelarbon QLD
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: Utes in the Paddock, Condobolin NSW
- Best Street Art Trail: Heesco Town – Yarram, Yarram VIC

2020 Silver Winners:

- Best Mega Mural: Quorn Silo Light Show, Quorn SA
- Best External Mural: Odeith - Jumping Kangaroo, Darwin NT
- Best Landmark Sculpture: West Wyalong Chainsaw Art, West Wyalong NSW
- Best Metropolitan Art: Nexus by Chris Nixon sculpture, City of Melville WA
- Best Monument or Memorial: The Big Football, Ungarie NSW
- Best Rural Art: Gunnedah Rainbow Serpent Water Feature, Gunnedah NSW
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: Walcha Open Air Gallery, Walcha NSW
- Best Street Art Trail: Maryborough Mural Trail, Maryborough QLD

2020 Bronze Winners:

- Best Mega Mural: Yelarbon Graincorp Silo Art, Yelarbon QLD
- Best External Mural: The BRAVE & THE BEAUTIFUL, West Geelong VIC
- Best Landmark Sculpture: Australovenator Dinosaur Family, Yeppoon QLD
- Best Metropolitan Art: Baru Mural, Darwin NT
- Best Monument or Memorial: Baru Mural, Darwin NT
- Best Rural Art: Monto Artway, Monto QLD
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: The Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail, Barcaldine region, QLD
- Best Street Art Trail: Heartwalk CBD, Kalgoorlie WA

**Media comment:** Liz Rivers [liz@awardsabsolute.com](mailto:liz@awardsabsolute.com) / 0409 071 816

**High res images:** 1300 88 22 59 / 07 5446 4299