

MEDIA RELEASE

Best Places Across Australia to See Street Art in 2022 Unveiled

Twenty-six public art experiences have been recognised as the best in the country for art-loving visitors at the Australian Street Art Awards, announced tonight from Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

The Gold Award winners of the **2021 Australia Street Art Awards**, a Tourism Awards for Public Art program, include remote artworks up to 630 kilometres from their state capital.

Heading the list was the **2021 SWELL Sculpture Festival** on the Gold Coast, a sculpture festival that showcased 50 epic, quirky and mind-twisting creations of leading sculptors on the sands of Currumbin Beach. It was announced as the **Best of the Best** after taking out the Best Street Art Festival or Event 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 75-kilometre outdoor gallery of tricked-up tractors, a vibrant sculpture of one of Australia's giant marine wonders, and a mega-sized mural that honours one of our most beloved poets are amongst the Gold Winners.

The evening included the announcement of the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Australian Art Tourism Award. Granted to a person who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to transform their destination through outdoor art, the accolade recognises the personal commitment necessary to 'make street art happen'. The inaugural recipient is Wayne Tindall, the man who played the pivotal role in driving the Heesco Town – Yarram project in Gippsland. Heesco Town is Australia's first town dedicated to the work of a single internationally-renowned street artist.

The Australian Street Art Awards encourages Australians to explore the world-class street and public art that is 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".

Australian lovers of art 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 Report.

Awards Director, Liz Rivers, added "Australia has a long history of creating superlative public art that captivates visitors. Until these Awards were launched three years ago there had never been a way of rewarding and supporting the places 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. Free outdoor activities have also gained favour over the past two years, making road trips to see outdoor murals, sculptures, monuments and mega pieces like silo art the perfect holiday thrill," Ms Rivers said.

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2021 Gold Winners:

- Best of the Best: SWELL Sculpture Festival, Gold Coast QLD
- Best Entrance Art (New): Gunimidjina Gwala Daraniki, Darwin NT
- Best External Mural: Wind Dance, Kingston SE SA
- Best Landmark Sculpture: Accessible Cuttlefish Throne, Whyalla SA
- Best Mega Mural: Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Mural, Gunnedah NSW
- Best Monument or Memorial: Vincent Lingiari Memorial Mural, Darwin NT
- Best Rural Art: The Horsepower Highway, Gnowangerup WA
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: The Horsepower Highway, Gnowangerup WA
- Best Street Art Festival or Event: SWELL Sculpture Festival, Gold Coast QLD
- Best Street Art Laneway (New): Fifth Lane Street Art Mackay, Mackay QLD
- Best Street Art Tour (New): Frankston Street Art Walking Tours, Frankston VIC
- Best Street Art Trail: Heesco Town, Yarram VIC

2021 Silver Winners:

- Best External Mural: 2 Kool 4 Skool, Lightning Ridge NSW
- Best Landmark Sculpture: Stanley – The Big Bird, Lightning Ridge, NSW
- Best Mega Mural: Walgett (Jimmy Little) Water Tower Mural, Walgett NSW
- Best Monument or Memorial: Mongolian Light Horsemen Mural, Yarram VIC
- Best Rural Art: Southern YP Water Tower Mural Trail, Yorke Peninsula SA
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: Museum of Underwater Art, Townsville QLD
- Best Street Art Festival or Event: Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, Perth WA
- Best Street Art Laneway: Memorial Plaza Interactive Murals, Corowa NSW
- Best Street Art Tour: Dinosaur Canyon Experience Tour AOD, Winton QLD
- Best Street Art Trail: The Horsepower Highway (GNP360)

2021 Bronze Winners:

- Best External Mural: Kaff-Eine & Mimmim, Darwin NT
- Best Landmark Sculpture: Pelicans on Patrol, Yeppoon QLD
- Best Monument or Memorial: Lynn Fuller Memorial, Lonsdale SA
- Best Rural Art: Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Mural, Gunnedah NSW
- Best Sculpture Park or Trail: Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton QLD
- Best Street Art Festival or Event: Chalk the Walk Newcastle, Newcastle NSW
- Best Street Art Laneway: Shadforth Lane, Darwin NT
- Best Street Art Tour: Big Rivers Portrait Series, Katherine NT
- Best Street Art Trail: The Maryborough Mural Trail, Maryborough QLD

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