

Launch at 33 Charlotte Street heralds the 'Art State' ◀ ▶

We live in the 'Smart State' and the 'Sunshine State' but you could also say we live in the 'Art State' following the recent launch of the largest Art Built-in project in Queensland at the 33 Charlotte Street office building.

Public Art Project Manager and Curator (stage 2) Martha Liew said the strong architectural design of the 33 Charlotte Street office building by Robin Gibson (Robin Gibson & Partners) made it a challenge to find compatible artists who could compete on equal terms with his design.

"The process was rigorous and for some artwork opportunities we undertook the Art Built-in process three times," Martha said.

"More than 30 artists were commissioned to undertake concept and design development proposals for the four artwork opportunities. Five local artists were chosen and their artworks have combined well with Robin's design to add character to the building.

"This is art that generates public interest and creates a direct and meaningful relationship between the building, its physical location and those who use the building."

The artworks at 33 Charlotte Street include:

"Drift" by Sebastian Di Mauro: The two aluminium casting sculptures evoke concepts of transformation, growth, change and renewal. The closed cocoon like shape juxtaposed with the standing open form alludes to metamorphosis. "Drift" is located between the floor and awning of the lower plaza to create a strong presence for passers-by and occupants of 33 Charlotte Street.

"Travelling North" by John Elliott: The sandstone relief located at the foyer of 33 Charlotte Street brings its rural/urban landscape based on the equinox, into an internal structure as a preserved earthwork. It's a symbol of travel and transition, seasons-light/time and the constancy of change which maintains equilibrium through the unknown.

"Transient Fields" by Barbara Penrose: The integrated art stainless steel screen and glass at the 33 Charlotte Street lift lobby includes a simple motif derived from a shadow in the arched façade of Charlotte Chambers, the historic building that once occupied this site.

"Resonance" by Hew Chee Fong and L.M. Noonan: The four granite blocks at the lower plaza level are conceptually inspired by the architectural forms that surround the site and by those found in buildings throughout the world, both ancient and new.

Project Services has a key role to coordinate the implementation of Queensland's Art Built-in policy on behalf of the Public Art Agency. These four artworks at 33 Charlotte Street are excellent examples of the results achieved through the Art Built-in policy, particularly in supporting local artists and the Arts in Queensland.

The artworks were officially launched by the Minister for Education and the Arts, the Hon. Anna Bligh MP and the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, the Hon. Robert Swarten. The opening also included the presentation of the Year of the Built Environment Award to prominent local artist, Wendy Mills for her contribution to the development of Public Art in Queensland.