

Media Release: GIANT CICADA SPREADS WINGS TO QUEEN'S WHARF

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After lying dormant for two years, one of Brisbane's largest and loudest artworks is spreading its wings, emerging to begin the next stage of its life at Queen's Wharf Brisbane.

The giant stainless steel and glass sculpture "*Cicada (Two Wings of Culture)*" by Brisbane artist John Coleman was created in 2004 and installed at the front of the Cultural Centre busway station.

It was relocated from its home of 18 years at South Brisbane to make way for Brisbane Metro infrastructure works and stored by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR).

Complete with its distinctive internal sound system, which replicates the noise of the cicada; one of the loudest insects in the world, the 10-metre-long sculpture will have a new home alongside Queens Wharf Road as part of the multi-million-dollar Queen's Wharf Brisbane public art gallery.

Thrilled with the prominent location of his artwork almost 20 years ago, artist John Coleman said the renewed position as part of the iconic Queen's Wharf cultural program is like *déjà vu*.

"I still remember getting the job back then, standing at the site and thinking this is a big deal," Mr Coleman said.

"I feel the same way now.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have a recognisable piece of art be moved, maintained and reimagined.

"I'm very proud my work will now be located at such a stand-out spot along the river," he said.

"People will now be able to see it as they come off the ferry, drive down the freeway or ride along the bike path."

Cicada will join the standout collection of artworks by local, First Nations and International artists, that feature across the 7.5 hectares of public space within the Queen's Wharf precinct, including waterfront areas by the Brisbane River.

They include the 8-metre, 8,000-kilogram masterpiece "Being Swallowed by the Milky Way" by Brisbane-born internationally revered artist Lindy Lee and "Inhabitant" an enormous 15 metre floating art garden depicting native plants by exciting First Nations artist Tony Albert.

Highly regarded art figure Philip Bacon AO led the specialist Art Advisory panel which curated the unique collection of artworks.

"The size, scale and subject matter of the Cicada artwork was the right fit for the public space and when installed will be a talking point," Mr Bacon said.

"We had previously identified the site would be enhanced with a large, unique art piece and the Cicada is certainly that."

"Cicadas are performers, they sing to attract mates so it's a lovely synergy to have that artistically represented."

Chief Executive Officer of The Star Brisbane Daniel Finch said the artworks by John Coleman will further illuminate the spotlight on local artists across the precinct.

"*Cicada* will be a striking addition to the incredible collection of sculptures and artworks installed and on full view now at Queen's Wharf.

“Domestic and international visitors, including for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games want greater authentic, cultural experiences.

“*Cicada* is a welcome contribution to our public art program, a valuable asset to the community and we are proud to continue its legacy in Queensland.”

Cicada will be given a freshen up by the Consortium, including replacing damaged glass and upgrading the lighting and audio systems, before being relocated and craned into its new home at Queen’s Wharf Brisbane next year.

Cicada is on loan to the Consortium and remains a State of Queensland asset.