

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****MICHAEL COOK WINS THE 2022 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AT  
JOSEPHINE ULRICK AND WIN SCHUBERT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

**Image:** Michael Cook. *Enculturation #2* 2022. Finalist, Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award 2022; © Image courtesy of the artist and Jan Murphy Gallery **Photo:** Exhibition installation view, supplied by HOTA **Photo:** Michael Cook, courtesy of the artist

Contemporary cultural precinct **HOTA, Home of the Arts** has today announced **Michael Cook** as the People's Choice Award Winner at the **2022 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Exhibition**.

The **Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award** provides a national platform for emerging and established artists working in the broad medium of contemporary photography.

The exhibition opened on 17 September 2022 and **Michael Cook's** work ***Enculturation #2*** has been a firm people's choice favourite over the past 8 weeks receiving the highest number of votes.

Michael Cook is a Queensland photographic artist who creates surreal and distinctive images that examine colonial history and present-day repercussions. Cook's images unite the historical with the imaginary and the political with the personal.

The narrative in Cook's submission *Enculturation #2* traces a journey through a landscape where old newspapers lie on the ground in reference to Australia's Stolen Generation. Photographed on Country with senior women painted up for ceremony, young babies sit amongst the women in a classroom-like formation as they absorb the nuances of Country and learn to move comfortably within the harsh-looking landscape. Cook's *Enculturation #2* explores difficult territory with a nurturing gentleness drawn from the beauty of its aesthetic.

People's Choice Award winning artist Michael Cook said: *"My vision aims for a situation when we may all learn from the past to create a better future. My hope is that people see all colours 'empathetically', not just in black and white. In my work I use role reversal to develop empathy for the subject's situation. In each image I ask questions, leaving the viewer to plumb their own knowledge at their own level. Winning the Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award People's Choice is particularly gratifying because conveying these stories to the widest audience is the reason for creating what I do. I am thrilled that this work has resonated with the broader public."*

Michael Cook will receive a **\$5,000 award** and emerged as a clear winner from an impressive finalist group of **40 works**, selected from over **260 submissions**, by **Isobel Parker Philip**, Senior Curator of Contemporary Australian Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW).

The People's Choice Award also carries a prize for one lucky Gallery visitor who voted in the award. The prize comes courtesy of HOTA Corporate Partner JW Marriott and includes a two-night stay at JW Marriott Gold Coast in an ocean view room with breakfast for two daily in Citrique, plus \$500 spending money. The winner of this prize was drawn at random from people who gave their email when voting for their favourite work in the People's Choice Award.

**Tracy Cooper-Lavery, Director, Gallery and Visual Arts, HOTA** said: *"It is of no surprise that Michael's work stood out to HOTA Gallery visitors and to win the People's Choice award. **Enculturation #2** is a remarkable work on so*

many levels. Soft hues handover to a striking and powerful message, to capture your attention which has clearly resonated with so many of our gallery visitors. It is a thought-provoking piece."

**Criena Gehrke, HOTA CEO said:** "It's a wonderful experience when a HOTA Gallery visitor is given the opportunity to cast their vote and give their comment on the works presented. It's one of the ways that we continue to evolve the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Exhibition as one of Australia's most significant contemporary photography collections."

Michael Cook's photographic series *Natures Mortes* was recently acquired by HOTA Gallery and was included in the HOTA Collects exhibition *Punching Up | 21st Century Indigenous Photography*. The exhibition featured the works of six 21st century First Nation photographic practitioners.

In October, HOTA announced the winner of the **2022 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award** as judged by **Isobel Parker Philip**, Senior Curator of Contemporary Australian Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW). **wani toaishara** was awarded the **\$25,000 acquisitive award**, the richest prize for photography in Queensland, for his work *do black boys go to heaven*.

One of Australia's most significant awards for contemporary photographic practice, the **Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award** provides a national platform for emerging and established artists working in the broad medium of contemporary photography.

Australia's largest public gallery outside a capital city, the new **\$60.5 million HOTA Gallery** opened on Australia's Gold Coast in **May 2021**. Designed by award-winning Melbourne-based architects **ARM**, the Gallery **spans six levels** and during its first 12 months has already attracted visitors from across the world with a dynamic program of **world premiere exhibitions, Australian exclusives and new commissions**.

**The full list of finalists** selected for the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award: Abdul Abdullah; Tarik Ahlip; Anthea Behm; Yuriyal Eric Bridgeman; Kieran Butler; Maria Fernanda Cardoso; Anna Carey; Aaron Chapman; Michael Cook; Ellen Dahl; Lucas Davidson; Jo Duck; Lyle Duncan; Kath Egan; Ash Garwood; Amos Gebhardt; Douglas Lance Gibson; Guy Grabowsky; Tim Gregory; Yvette Hamilton; Petrina Hicks; Naomi Hobson; Samuel Hodge; Eliza Hutchison; The Huxleys; Katrin Koenning; Paula Mahoney; Ali McCann; Mia Mala McDonald; Phuong Ngo; Selina Ou; Hiromi Tango; Angela Tiatia; wani toaishara; Shan Turner-Carroll; Skye Wagner; Carl Warner; Kai Wasikowski; Lydia Wegner; Jemima Wyman.

The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award is currently open to view at HOTA Gallery, Australia's largest gallery outside a capital city, until **8 January 2023**.

Earlier this month, HOTA announced the world premiere exhibition, [Pop Masters: Art from the Mugar Collection, New York](#) opening 18 February 2023.

**-ENDS-**

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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**IMAGES** of the People's Choice Award winner available [HERE](#)

**IMAGES** of the winner and select 2022 finalists available [HERE](#)

**IMAGES** of retrospective finalists and acquisitions available [HERE](#)

#### **EXHIBITION DETAILS:**

Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award | Captured, 20 Years  
17 September 2022 - 8 January 2023  
HOTA Gallery, 135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise

**Exhibition Major Partner:** Chevron One Residences

**Exhibition Corporate Partner:** Veracity IT

## ABOUT THE JOSEPHINE ULRICK AND WIN SCHUBERT PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Exclusive to HOTA, the **Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award** was launched in 2002 in collaboration with the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation. An anticipated survey of contemporary photographic practice, the award plays an important role in representing the work of artists across Australia. In 2022, an **additional \$25,000 is allocated** to support contemporary artists through acquisitions into the city collection.

Since the Award's inception, 60 works have been acquired by HOTA, resulting in a celebrated collection that reflects shifts in the cultural and social landscape over two decades. This includes work by **Christian Thompson, Tamara Dean, Shaun Gladwell, Danie Mellor, Darren Sylvester, Lynne Roberts-Goodwin, Polixeni Papapetrou, Polly Borland, Cherine Fahd, Tony Albert, Abdul Abdullah and Eugenia Raskopoulos.**

## ABOUT HOTA GALLERY

In May 2021, HOTA opened the City's new \$60.5M Gallery. HOTA Gallery is the centrepiece of the City's Cultural Precinct Masterplan which guides the evolution of the precinct over the next 10-15 years as the city's artistic and cultural needs grow. With more than \$399 million allocated to deliver the precinct, this is a City serious about supporting the arts.

Designed by international architects ARM and spanning six levels with over 2000m<sup>2</sup> of AAA rated, international standard exhibition space, the new Gallery includes a 1000m<sup>2</sup> main exhibition space, with the capacity for touring exhibitions of an international size and scale. It features 900m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space for the City Collection and temporary exhibitions, a dedicated Children's Gallery and almost 1000m<sup>2</sup> for collection storage and exhibition preparation. HOTA Gallery is a must-see destination that facilitates and shares new ideas and experiences in visual art both indoors and outdoors; that draws its strength from integrated arts programming, and collaborations with artists, creatives and institutional partners on a local to global scale.

HOTA Gallery is the largest public gallery outside a capital city in Australia with the ability and ambition to present exhibitions and projects of national and international scale. In the first two years the Gallery will host major international exhibitions that are Australian exclusives and will continue to celebrate local talent along with presenting the \$35 million City Collection in its new home. The annual Gallery program also features commissions, children's exhibitions, talks, performances and Up-Lates alongside external activations and installations. HOTA Gallery also has a comprehensive, inquiry-based education program delivered by experienced educators and artists working together. As well as exhibition specific resources, education tours and professional development programs are delivered year-round.