



Thank You For Your Support

2016 has been a busy and exciting year for the Art from the Margins program. The continued vibrancy and growth of the program has been made possible with the ongoing generous support of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and its members. On behalf of the AFTM team - and the hundreds of artists who have participated in our program this year - we wish to extend our deepest thanks to the Order for this wonderful support.

AFTM's year began in early February with a gathering of supporters, artists and friends at Wesley House in Brisbane. Professor George Kearney and Charles Clarke attended and had the opportunity to meet artist Michael Batt, who was the winner of the 2015 Brisbane Festival Exhibition Order of St John People's Choice Art Award.

Soon after this event AFTM made the much anticipated move to new premises at 136 Brunswick Street Fortitude Valley. Our new home will become an inner city base for workshops, art events and exhibitions. During the year we held our first art workshops and exhibitions at 136 and also formed a new art group – a weekly artists meet up group which brings artists together to share creative ideas and build their own support network.

In 2017 AFTM staged a series of exhibitions to promote artists, including exhibitions for indigenous artists at St Andrew's Hospital, refugee artists at 136 Brunswick Street and The Vera Wade Gallery and the first solo exhibition for artist Joanne Braddy. The 2016 AFTM Brisbane Festival art exhibition was held at Brisbane City Hall and attracted nearly 2,000 visitors. Hundreds of visitors voted in the Order of St John People's Choice Awards. The response was so overwhelming that AFTM made two awards; artists Kathy Harwin and Jo Morris finished neck and neck in the voting. Professor George Kearney presented the Order's awards to Kathy and Jo at the artist celebration event held at Albert Street Uniting Church.

AFTM is now planning the 2017 program – and it will be an even busier calendar of workshops and exhibitions. Our new home at 136 Brunswick Street will become fully operational in early 2017 – and the Order of St John has played a pivotal role in making this possible. Throughout 2016 AFTM has been working to have a disability lift installed – and to raise the significant funds needed for this project. AFTM was delighted to receive a major donation from the Order in October. This generous contribution will complete our fundraising drive for the lift. Having a disability lift installed will allow full and equal access to both levels of our art space and open up the building to all our artists and visitors.

Without the continued support of the Order, Art from the Margins would not have been able to grow and create so many opportunities for hundreds of artists living with adversity, disadvantage and social isolation. Thank you.