Arts Reviews

PROFILE
Yayoi Kusama: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow
A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT GOMA

What's Best in Brisbane!
Yayoi Kusama is one of the most renowned artists working today. Her creations, with their characteristic dots, nets and pumpkins, have reached beyond the art world to enter popular culture. Similarly, the distinctive image of the artist’s signature electric red hair is widely recognisable. Since her emergence in Japan in the early 1950s, and her participation in the postwar art scenes in New York and Europe in the 1960s, Kusama has carved a singular path as an artist. She has been at the forefront of multimedia art, installation, soft sculpture, performance and public art, influencing generations of artists throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

**PROFILE**

**INTERNATIONAL PHENOMENON**

**YAYOI KUSAMA AT GOMA**

Yayoi Kusama: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow is a focused overview of Kusama’s vast body of work. The exhibition runs up to 4 Feb 2018 and is a collaboration between National Gallery Singapore and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.

**Creative Brisbane Website**

Want to keep up with the latest in arts and entertainment news in Brisbane? Our newly launched website is packed with events & reviews giving you a central hub to find out what’s Best in Brisbane: give creativebrisbane.com.au a whirl today!
Magnificent Makers
9 Dec 2017 – 3 Jun 2018
State Library of Queensland
slq.qld.gov.au
Explore Queensland’s unique history of innovation in State Library of Queensland’s upcoming exhibition, Magnificent Makers. The exhibition profiles the lives and works of a group of remarkable Queenslanders who thought outside the box to craft pioneering creations from the late 1800s to the present day.

One of the most intriguing items on display is an intricate Braille globe for vision-impaired children, invented in Queensland in the 1950s by Richard Frank Tunley. Tunley dedicated his life to improving outcomes for vision-impaired children and adults, producing Braille globes and maps, as well as being instrumental in implementing compulsory education for deaf and blind children.

The Little Mermaid
Ballet Theatre of Queensland
Wed 17 to Sat 20 January
Playhouse, QPAC
qpac.com.au
Tickets from $36
Enter the magical underwater world of Ballet Theatre of Queensland’s The Little Mermaid, an enchanting ballet based on the Hans Christian Anderson classic tale of love, loss and discovery.

Choreographed by Artistic Director Timothy Brown, with exquisite sets and costumes, The Little Mermaid showcases the talents of Queensland’s finest young dancers, in a ballet that will enchant both the young and the young at heart.

The Little Mermaid’s greatest wish is to discover the world above the sea, but on her 15th birthday she strikes a deal with the wicked and powerful Sea Witch that will change her life.

Join Queensland’s premier youth ballet company, celebrating its 81st year of ballet magic making, by bringing this beloved fairy-tale to life.

Choreography Timothy Brown
Set design Bill Haycock & Rozina Suliman
Costume design Carmel Wenck
Lighting design Wesley Bluff

Image: Collection items and photographs supplied by State Library of Queensland and Queensland Museum.
**Yayoi Kusama: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow**

Until 4 Feb 2018

GOMA

qagoma.qld.gov.au

Yayoi Kusama. Life is the Heart of a Rainbow is a focused overview of Kusama’s vast body of work. The exhibition runs up to 4 Feb 2018 and is a collaboration between National Gallery Singapore and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.

It explores the development – over seven decades of art-making – of Kusama’s iconic motifs, her engagement with the human body and her expansive conception of space.

The exhibition includes early painterly experiments, a multi-decade presentation of the artist’s celebrated ‘net’ paintings, performance documentation, soft sculpture and assemblage, as well as the ‘infinity rooms’ and large-scale installations of her later career. Building on imagery and strategies that she has employed throughout her oeuvre, recent paintings and sculptures show Kusama’s remarkable consistency, as well as her extraordinary inventiveness.

The exhibition culminates in a reprise of her interactive project The obliteration room 2002–ongoing, in GOMA’s Children’s Art Centre, while the beguiling installation Narcissus garden 1966/2002 is on display in the Queensland Art Gallery’s Watermall.

Image: Installation view of Yayoi Kusama’s The obliteration room 2002 – present / Collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and QAG. Commissioned by QAG / Gift of the artist through the QAGOMA Foundation 2012 / © YAYOI KUSAMA

**Gladiators: Heroes of the Colosseum**

Only at Queensland Museum

Until 28 January 2018

Queensland Museum

qm.qld.gov.au

Don’t miss your last chance to explore Ancient Rome first-hand and discover what life was like for a Gladiator at Queensland Museum.

See ancient artefacts from the Colosseum, weapons and armour preserved in the ashes of Pompeii, and real bronze gladiator helmets used in battle almost 2000 years ago. Try on replica helmets, practice your battle moves in the mini arena and experience life as a Gladiator.

With more than 110 artefacts, interactive games and displays it’s perfect for the whole family, explore the incredible history of the Roman Empire these summer holidays.

Search ‘Gladiators Brisbane’ or visit qm.qld.gov.au/gladiators to book now. Adults $18, Concession $16, Child $12, Family (2A+2C) $55.

**Gladiator School**

8–12 and 15–19 January 2018

Queensland Museum

qm.qld.gov.au

Know some kids with lots of energy to burn? Train them to become a Gladiator this summer. They’ll construct a helmet and develop real gladiator moves before entering the Colosseum!

Bookings essential. 10.00am and 12.30pm each day

Children (7–12): $7.00

Group of 3 Children (7–12): $18.00

Accompanying adults are free of charge. Book online.

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**Mao's Last Dancer the exhibition:**

A Portrait of Li Cunxin

Museum of Brisbane
1 Dec 2017 – 19 Apr 2018
museumofbrisbane.com.au

Discover one man's incredible journey from poverty to world-famous artist in this exclusive Museum of Brisbane exhibition. Featuring never-before-seen interviews, performance footage and personal artefacts this exhibition is an intimate portrait of a contemporary Australian icon.

Born into bitter poverty, Li Cunxin grew up in a world few of us can imagine. Through the chance of fate, he was selected to attend Madame Mao's Beijing Dance Academy at age 11. Despite the Academy’s punishing training regime, with perseverance and the love of his family driving him to success, Li became one of China's most celebrated dancers.

In this world-first exhibition is an opportunity to intimately discover Li Cunxin’s deeply moving personal narrative, his remarkable artistic achievements and the extraordinary impact he continues to have on the lives of so many within and outside the dance community.

**The Kite Wishes Project**

Museum of Brisbane
1 Dec 2017 – 29 Apr 2018
museumofbrisbane.com.au

Create a kite, add your wish and send it flying.

Mao's Last Dancer – Li Cunxin – has a life-long love of kites: creating and flying them as a child, in rare and precious moments with his father. Kites became a metaphor for Li's life, as his career soared beyond the impoverished commune of his childhood to the ballet stages of the world. Become part of Li's story by creating your own kite, adding a wish and flying it with friends and family from across Brisbane as part of The Kites Wishes Project.

Visit Museum of Brisbane during Mao's Last Dancer the exhibition and design your own kite or be inspired by the koinbori fish template created by Brisbane artist Elysha Rei. Return on 24 February and send your wishes flying high as part of a kite procession from King George Square to BrisAsia's Kisaragi-Sai Festival at the Roma Street Parklands.

The Kite Wishes Project is a collaboration between Museum of Brisbane and BrisAsia Festival.
A Clockwork Orange
6 January – 17 February on selected dates
Brisbane Arts Theatre
artstheatre.com.au

The iconic work, A Clockwork Orange explores an ultra-violent, disenfranchised youth culture, the concurrent clash with authority, and complete lack of compassion exhibited by the story’s main characters. First published as a book in 1962, author Anthony Burgess also created the theatrical adaptation in 1987. A Clockwork Orange will confront an audience’s acceptance of violence and remind us of the part religion and authority can play in creating intense chaos. Brisbane Arts Theatre’s landmark production of A Clockwork Orange features two separate casts; one with all-male Droogs and one with all-female Droogs, thus challenging us to consider gender in the notion of violence.

The play is accompanied by Burgess’ original score (instrument and vocal) and references Beethoven’s Symphonies, Moonlight Sonata and Ode to Joy to support the tone and pace of the play.

“Do not be a clockwork orange, freedom has a lovely voice. Here is good and there is evil, look on both then take your choice” – Ensemble, A Clockwork Orange

Richard O’Brien’s Rocky Horror Show
It’s a Guaranteed Party!
From 18 January
QPAC
book at rockyhorror.com.au

Starring Craig McLachlan in his award-winning role as the scandalous Frank N Furter and Cameron Daddo as the Narrator, Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show is ready to thrill you with its frothy fun and naughty moments. This is the boldest bash of them all, so sharpen those stilettos for the rockiest ride of your life!

On the way to visit an old college professor, two clean cut kids, Brad Majors and his fiancée Janet Weiss, run into tyre trouble and seek help at the site of a light down the road. It’s coming from the Frankenstein place, where Dr Frank N Furter is in the midst of one of his maniacal experiments....

Since its first appearance at the Royal Court Theatre in June 1973, Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show has become the world’s favourite rock n’ roll musical. It has been performed worldwide in over 30 countries in every continent and has been translated into more than 20 languages. Get ready for a night of fun, frolics and frivolity in this thrilling production of Richard O’Brien’s classic original script!

Bursting at the seams with the timeless classics including Sweet Transvestite, Damn it Janet, and of course, the pelvic-thrusting Time Warp, Richard O’Brien’s Rocky Horror Show is a non-stop party!
Summer Festival
18 Dec – 21 Jan
State Library of Queensland
slq.qld.gov.au/summerfestival
Free & ticketed activities
Make your summer a story to remember at State Library of Queensland!
Boasting a choose-your-own adventure program of free activities and our popular Story Lab workshop series, Summer Festival is bursting with fabulous imaginative fun for children, young people and families.
Start with some classic story-telling or arts and crafts. Get digital with workshops in coding, robotics, virtual reality, augmented reality and 360 film-making. Go from creative writing to creating your own picture book. Explore the free exhibitions and interactive installations. We have activities designed especially for under 8’s, 8-11 and 12–16 year olds, plus plenty for all ages.
Summer Festival is SLQ’s biggest holiday program ever. The schedule changes daily and will continue evolving throughout the holidays, so visit often and discover the latest chapter.

Arj Barker – Organic
Presented by
Mary Tobin Presents
1 – 17 December
Brisbane Powerhouse
wonderlandbrisbane.com.au
marytobinpresents.com.au
arjbarker.com
Comedy favourite Arj Barker returns to Brisbane with his hilarious show, Organic. Revel in the comic genius and superbly astute observations of this award-winning performer.
“As always, I start with the finest free-range topics, nurture them until they’re brimming with wholesome hilarity, and ready for the tellin’. Remember, my cruelty-free jokes are ALWAYS tested on animals, and 100% goat-approved by the time you hear them. That’s quality you can trust.”
"may contain traces of nuts
“A must see for anyone who loves a laugh...” Adelaide Now
“On-point delivery and irresistible charm, it’s clear to see why he continues to sell out” Herald Sun
The Story of Brisbane Walking Tour

Brisbane Powerhouse
119 Lamington Street
Each Wednesday 10am
brisbanepowerhouse.org

Award-winning actors Therese Collie and Tim Mullooly bring the characters and stories of famous Brisbane authors to life in a unique and fascinating walking tour showcasing the literary history of our city in The Story of Brisbane. Against the backdrop of the Brisbane River and with Brisbane Powerhouse at the heart of the narrative, The Story of Brisbane is packed with anecdote, humour and information.

This unique tour celebrates the many wondrous ways writers have seen our city, including Steele Rudd and David Malouf to Oodgeroo Noonuccal and even The Go-Betweens.

Soak up the atmosphere of Brisbane Powerhouse and gain an insight into the way of life of Brisbane people: from our original Indigenous inhabitants to the European convicts and free settlers, through wars and depression to the protests of the 70s and right up to the present day.

Book at 07 33588600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org
No shows on 27 Dec and 03 Jan

Perception Deception

Until 21 January 2018
Queensland Museum
Corner Melbourne and Grey St, South Brisbane
9.30am to 5.00pm daily
www.qm.qld.gov.au

Mind melting illusions, sensory sensations, playing with perception, and discovering the world inside your head are all part of the exhibition Perception Deception.

Is what we see, hear and feel real? Challenge your sensory signals and explore how your brain perceives the things and people around you. Discover how people may perceive the same thing in a different way and that reality is not what it seems.

Test your balance while walking along a path wearing special glasses, make your arms feel like they are floating, see into infinity and watch a ball disappear in mid-air. Explore your visual, multisensory, social and audio-language perception.

Perception Deception is the ultimate hands-on, minds-on exhibition of mind trickery to test and fool your perceptions.

Book now and discover more at www.qm.qld.gov.au.

Tickets: Includes Sciencentre admission: Adults $14.50, Concession $12.50, Child (ages 3 – 15) $11.50, Family (2+4) $44.50