MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 20th August, 2014

Invaders, Outsiders- Art from unlikely places on show at Brisbane City Hall

BRISBANE’S growing Outsider Art scene will be explored at a public forum during next month’s Brisbane Festival thanks to Wesley Mission Brisbane’s innovative art program, Art from the Margins (AFTM).

One of the world’s leading authorities on Outsider Art, Professor Colin Rhodes, Dean of the College of Arts and Director of STOARC (the Self-Taught and Outsider Art Research Collection) at the University of Sydney, will be the keynote speaker at the forum, along with an impressive panel of local artists and cultural and community identities. ABC Radio National’s Sarah Kanowski will host and moderate the Forum.

AFTM Manager Anthony Anderton said the forum is open to all and is a must for local artists, community art organisations and anyone interested in Outsider Art.

“Our program was born out of a glaring need to provide a platform for disadvantaged and ‘outsider artists’ to exhibit their works to the public. While Outsider Art is very popular in America this forum is an exciting development for the art community of Brisbane,” he said.

Professor Rhodes said outsider artists give us an enormous wealth of art that comes from unlikely places.

“An outsider artist is one who has emerged from a context from which very few people expect art to emerge – a kind of invader, a renegade, an outsider. These individuals produce work in unique styles that are untainted by systems and structures of learning. The works evolve through a natural and unrefined process of pure artistic operation,” he said.

“If we open ourselves up to it we are given a unique, privileged experience.”

This year’s AFTM’s Brisbane Festival exhibition has received over 450 entries which will grace the walls of Brisbane’s iconic Brisbane City Hall during the festival.

AFTM Manager Anthony Anderton said this is the largest response from their artists in the seven years they have been involved with the festival.

“Our program works with some of the most vulnerable people in our community; those living with mental health issues, disabilities and homelessness – people who aren’t given the same opportunity to exhibit their art as mainstream artists. We are very excited to bring the work of these talented and courageous artists to the people of Brisbane,” he said.

“The exhibition will be vibrant, colourful, original and challenging and includes: paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, drawing, installations and craft work. The free exhibition and public forum are not to be missed.”
Art from the Margins, a creative initiative of Wesley Mission Brisbane, is a not-for-profit community art program providing disadvantaged artists with art mentoring, practical art classes and the opportunity to exhibit their works in prominent public showcases. www.artfromthemargins.org.au

For tickets to the forum and more information contact Tony Anderton on 0408 873 561 or email a.anderton@wmb.org.au

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EVENT: Art from the Margins Brisbane Festival Exhibition
WHEN: Thursday 11th September to Sunday 14th September, 9am-5pm daily, free entry.
WHERE: Brisbane City Hall, King George Square

Outsider Art Forum
Saturday 13th September, 1:30pm–4.30pm (Ticketed $20) Sister Cities Room, Brisbane City Hall.

Forum Panel:
Colin Rhodes is Professor and Dean at Sydney College of the Arts, the University of Sydney, Director of the Self-Taught and Outsider Art Research Collection of the University of Sydney (STOARC) and Editor of Elsewhere. The International Journal of Self-Taught and Outsider Art.

Maud Page, Acting Deputy Director, Curatorial & Collection Development of the Queensland Art Gallery.

Local artists, Nicky Carey and Peter Rowe.

Claire Sourgnes, Network Coordinator of Art Galleries for the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Justine Wake, Brisbane-based Art Therapist and Counsellor.

ABC Radio National’s Sarah Kanowski will host and moderate the forum.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Jessica Mewburn | Wesley Mission Brisbane
07 3621 4520 | 0428 608 490 | j.mewburn@wmb.org.au

ABOUT WMB
Wesley Mission Brisbane is a leading not-for-profit organisation, offering community support, aged care, child care and retirement living. The work of Wesley Mission Brisbane reaches throughout Queensland encouraging social inclusion and strengthening communities. www.wmb.org.au

ABOUT Art from the Margins
Art from the Margins (AFTM) began in 2008 as a program to support homeless artists. The idea was born in a Brisbane park beside a coffee van when a member of the Albert Street Uniting Church’s Servant Network was talking with an artist living in isolation. The artist spoke about the challenges confronting artists living with disadvantage when they try to display their work in a public space or participate in the wider arts community. Wesley Mission Brisbane made the commitment to support artists whose creative development was limited by homelessness, disability, disadvantage or social isolation and Art from the Margins was created. www.artfromthemargins.org.au