

**FRIENDS OF THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
GOVERNMENT HOUSE ART TOUR
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House. Hopefully, you enjoyed the tours of our new contemporary art display, curated by Jane Stewart, and of our State Rooms, guided by Don.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. We honour them, and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

I am sure we all hope that our new additions of modern Tasmanian artwork will foster some appreciation by our visitors of our State's rich artistic heritage. Importantly, incorporating contemporary art into the Government House collection can, in a small way, promote our local artists and our vibrant art scene. The more contemporary display aims to balance and honour the past whilst embracing our future artists.

May I thank Jane Stewart for all her work and effort in curating this display. Curatorial decisions are significant. They have the power to shape our artistic discourse and influence our public understanding.¹ Feedback so far from guests and visitors confirms that our contemporary Government House art has been well received. For that may we thank you, Jane [round of applause].

Whilst the focus of tonight has been on our new display, may I take this opportunity to thank you all, as members of the Friends of TMAG, for your ongoing support. You are ardent advocates for the arts. Your fundraising,

¹ <https://cerebralcurrents.medium.com/art-as-a-reflection-of-society-understanding-the-cultural-impact-270c8d641fc2>

events, exhibitions and educational programs support and ensure the continuation of the arts in our State.

I am honoured to be your Patron, sharing your belief in the importance of art to society.

Now, please enjoy the reception.

Thank you.