

# Artist Chan very proud

By Shelby Gurney

Queensland Regional Art Awards (QRAA) invited artists to explore the concept of perspective, the artworks submitted consider the concept in many facets, viewpoints and nuances and among the finalists is Rockhampton artist Jacky Chan.

The Flying Arts Alliance is delivering the Queensland Arts Awards and will be presenting a record prize pool of over \$140,000 across 10 award categories.

Each year, the QRAA feature diverse visual arts categories responding to a selected theme, the Flying Arts Alliance was keen to receive stimulating entries that address the broad concept through the visual arts and share story-telling.

Emerging artist award finalist Jacky Ming How Chan said he feels very happy and honoured that he was picked as a finalist although he hasn't fully processed it yet.

"I feel very proud that I'm one of the few artists chosen from Central Queensland," he said.

Jacky hasn't always wanted to be an artist, but nine years ago he decided to fulfil his passion of learning how to paint using classical and traditional techniques in Italy.

Since returning to Australia he has been focused on oil painting, Jacky has been able to create a vast number of incredible pieces including 'Studio Sundries' his submission that got him the finalist title.

The objects featured in this painting can be found around his studio and are typically seen

as objects that "you don't think twice about".

"I wanted to play with space and dimension where everything felt flat but also three dimensional," he said.

"Coming back to Rocky has really inspired me, I paint a lot of still lifes so the Rocky Swap has been really helpful to find objects to paint."

Currently, Jacky has two paintings on display at the Rockhampton Museum of Art for the Bayton Awards that utilise various objects found at the Rocky Swap.

The artworks displayed are 'The Dinner' and 'Symphony in White Major: The Bottle Movement.'

"The still lifes I create reflect the kind of objects found around Rocky that people disregard and think of it just as trash," he said.

"There's something really beautiful about trying to find beauty in the lost objects."

This technique has been a new addition to Jacky's style as when he was overseas he found it easier to find models to create the still lifes.

Coming back to Rockhampton he has found it harder to find models who have time to sit and be painted.

Jacky has taken this into his own hands by delivering life drawing classes at RMOA each Tuesday evening for those who wish to learn his techniques.

For those interested in seeing Jacky's paintings in person, the Bayton Awards exhibition is on display until Sunday, 26 November.

To keep up to date with the artist visit his instagram at: NotJackyChan



Rockhampton artist Jacky Chan is a finalist in the Queensland Regional Art Awards.

Picture: SUPPLIED

## Electrifying new single from the Zac Cross Band

By Shelby Gurney

Zac Cross Band is set to top the charts with their newest single, as Too Far Gone reminisces on a once-in-a-lifetime love.

The four-piece Rockhampton band released this newest hit on Friday, 27 October.

The Zac Cross Band is composed of lead vocalist Zac Cross, consists of lead guitarist Lachlan Plant, Joe O'Shaughnessy on bass and Bailey Connor on drums.

The band has an eclectic mix of favourite influences and genres that each member brings to the table when creating their music.

Their influences span from The Rolling Stones, Randy Travis to My Chemical Romance, but one thing that connects the band is their love for country music.

The result from all of their influences is heart-warming songwriting backed by stadium-worthy drums and six string fury.

Although still fresh, the new single has already achieved 15,673 streams on Spotify alone with it landing on Spotify's Fresh Country, Fresh Music Friday and Whiskey Riff playlists.

With its dreamy mid-tempo and searing guitar licks, the band says it plots a course through Country, Rock and Pop.

Drummer Bailey Connor said the reaction to the single has been fantastic with so much positivity flowing in from everywhere.

"It's a pretty good feeling to acknowledge that the song has been well received," he said.

"It's not something you get to do every day and when you release a song you definitely don't set expectations for its success.

"We all kind of felt like this one did have a bit behind it, so knowing that gave us a bit of confidence in how it would perform."

Their previous single, Like No Tomorrow, amassed 114,000 streams since its release and it continues to rise.

"Like all projects, you work on something and you always aim for the next step to be bigger and better than the last," Bailey said.

"All of our songs are very from the heart, but if you compared Too Far Gone to Like No Tomorrow, they would almost feel like they're in a completely different world.



Zac Cross Band reminisce over a once-in-a-lifetime love on their new single 'Too Far Gone'.

Picture: SUPPLIED

"Like No Tomorrow is a very energetic song whereas this new single is much more emotive."

When developing lyrics for Too Far Gone, Bailey said he would send Zac lyrics religiously every handful of hours.

"When you get into the rhythm it kind of just snowballs and you get better at transferring your thoughts into words and lyrics," he said.

"The job becomes a lot more simpler when everything's honest, open and genuine."

Lead singer Zac said he thinks they have the dream team and he wouldn't want to play with anyone else.

"I completely agree, I couldn't have said it better myself," Bailey said.

The country rockers proved to be favourites at festivals like Country on Keppel, Country on Quay, The Village Festival and Gympie Music Muster.

Zac Cross Band are set to continue their rocking shows around rural Queensland with shows in Banana, Emerald, Springsure, Rockhampton and Calliope.

Bailey said with each show they always bring the energy and the love to each audience with their last public performance for the year being Friday, 3 November at the Maraboon Tavern in Emerald.

"We love coming out to perform our songs and just have a good time with everyone, and let everyone who comes to watch us just relax for a couple of hours," he said.

"We love to let the audience forget about all the stresses in the world and just have a bit

of fun, that's what we do.

"I hope you're ready to party and have a bit of fun."

### SHOW DATES:

- Saturday 28th October – Banana Time Trials – Banana, QLD
- Friday 3rd November – Maraboon Tavern – Emerald, QLD
- Saturday 13th January - SWHA Fundraiser - Springsure, QLD
- Friday 19th January - Maraboon Tavern - Emerald, QLD
- Friday 26th January - The Great Western Hotel - Rockhampton, QLD
- Saturday 27th January - Calliope Aus Day Rodeo - Calliope, QLD
- Saturday 10th February - Big Beer Festival - Rockhampton, QLD