



**BACK HOME:** Brisbane-born artist Emma Coulter has contributed a large scale site-specific mural to the exhibition.

## WOMEN RULE AT THE MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

**PHIL BROWN**

THEY don't usually encourage people to paint on the walls at the Museum of Brisbane, but they made an exception in the case of Emma Coulter.

The acclaimed 41-year-old Melbourne-based artist was invited back to her hometown to do a colourful mural to celebrate a major new exhibition.

*New Woman*, which opens today at the Museum of Brisbane, encompasses all our major female artists. Emma Coulter was born and bred in Brisbane, stud-

ied at QUT and said she was thrilled to have been asked back to decorate the museum's Dome Lounge with her brightly coloured large-scale, site-specific work.

"I came up the week before last to complete it," she said.

"I do my own work, but it is so big, I needed an assistant. The exhibition is fantastic and I'm pleased to be part of it."

The exhibition features a snapshot of artists across 100 years and includes some well-known names including Margaret Olley (*Apples on a Table*, inset top), Vida Lahey (*Daphne Mayo*, inset mid-

dle), Betty Quelhurst (*Flowering Trees Brisbane*, inset base), Daphne Mayo, Tracey Moffatt, Davida Allen, Judy Watson and many more.

There are 110 works in all, hung salon-style from floor to ceiling.

Museum of Brisbane director Renai Grace said the exhibition would build a richer understanding of the leading role women have played in the cultural life of Brisbane. "*New Woman* will reveal the stunning works of female pioneers, their evolving practice and the identity of women artists in Brisbane," she said.