

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0257

Preston, Margaret Rose

(1875 - 1963)

Born	29 April, 1875, Port Adelaide South Australia Australia
Died	28 May, 1963, Mosman Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Artist

Summary

Margaret Preston was the first woman to be commissioned by the Art Gallery of New South Wales to produce a self-portrait. In 1996 one of her hand-coloured woodcuts of a Western Australian banksia from 1929 was commemorated on an Australia Day postage stamp.

Details

Margaret Rose Mcpherson studied in Melbourne and Adelaide before travelling overseas. In 1919 she married Bill Preston. As a successful teacher and exhibitor, she developed a reputation for her highly decorative and colourful paintings and woodcuts of Australian fauna and flora at a time when European flowers were still considered the norm for gardens and paintings.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Journal Article

Margaret Preston's Banksia Woodcut Memorialised, Butler, Roger, 1996

Book

100 great Australians, Macklin, Robert, 1983

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Birth certificate and manuscript, 1875-\[ca. 1924\] \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

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