

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3782

Paterson, Elizabeth Deans (Betty)

(1895 - 1970)

Born 18 March, 1895, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Died 31 December, 1970

Occupation Cartoonist, Illustrator, Journalist

Summary

Betty Paterson and her sister Esther were prodigies born into the elite of Melbourne's bohemian set. Father (Hugh) and uncle (John Ford) were both artists and her first playmates were her neighbours, the children of Frederick McCubbin.

Art impinged upon every facet of her life throughout its entire course. Her Art Deco cartoons were published regularly in magazines such as *The Bulletin* and *Aussie*. Her illustrated interpretations of 'permissive' 1920s society resonated with those she depicted – she became artist-by-appointment to the flappers.

Betty Paterson married twice, and had one child, a daughter, Barbara.

Events

1920 - 1940

1952 -

Married the painter Albion Wiltshire

1923 -

Kenneth Newman (later divorced)

1966 - 1966

Published resources

Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

Edited Book

Heritage : the national women's art book, 500 works by 500 Australian women artists from colonial times to 1955, Kerr, Joan, 1995

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Esther Paterson interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection \[sound recording\]](#)

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Betty Paterson, portrait artist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 27 October 2008

Last modified 5 September 2012

Digital resources



Title: Betty Paterson: Self Portrait

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023

Betty Paterson, *Self Portrait*, caricature from *Aussie*
15 April 1925 (ML, SLNSW)