

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00702

Blumann, Elise Margot Paula Rudolphina Hulda

(1897 - 1990)

Born	16 January, 1897, Parchim Germany
Died	29 January, 1990, Nedlands Perth Western Australia Australia
Occupation	Artist

Summary

Elise Blumann was an important figure in the Perth, Western Australian, art world.

Details

Elise Schlie was born on 16 January 1897 at Parchim, Germany, to Paul Schlie, cavalry officer and civil servant, and his wife Elfrida. Elise was the youngest of their three children, and, after attending school in Hamburg, was taught painting by Baron Leo Lütgendorff-Leinburg at Lübeck. She then studied in Berlin from 1917-20 under impressionists Max Liebermann and Lovis Corinth, worked teaching art, and exhibited for the first time in Hamburg in 1921.

Elise married Dr Arnold Blumann, a wealthy industrial chemist, in 1923. After spending brief periods in the Netherlands and England, the couple migrated to Australia, arriving in Fremantle, Western Australia, on 4 January, 1938. The Blumanns built a modernist house (since demolished) at Nedlands, and Elise Blumann's first paintings completed in Perth were a series of views of the Swan River. These were exhibited, along with a selection of nudes which caused a scandal, at her first Australian exhibition at Newspaper House, Perth, in August, 1944.

Blumann's outback travels also found expression in her painting, and reflected her interest the quality of nature and the individual's relationship to it. She was a member of the Perth Society of Artists, lecturing and holding art classes for adults and children, and staged an exhibition of her work in Paris in 1950. After the death of her husband in 1970, Blumann returned to Germany for five years, and upon returning to Perth, held exhibitions in local galleries, and then at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 1984. Elise Blumann died at Nedlands on 29 January, 1990.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

Blumann, Elise Margot Paula Rudolphina Hulda (1897 - 1990), Bromfield, David, 2006, <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A170112b.htm>

Book

Approaching Elise (contains interview and diary excerpts), Polizzotto, Carolyn, 1988

Western Australian Art and Artists 1900-1950, Gooding, Janda, 1987

Catalogue

Approaches To Modernism: The Art Of Portia Bennett, Elise Blumann And Iris Francis 1930s To 1950s, Quin, Sally, 2004

Elise Blumann: Paintings & Drawings 1918-1984, Bromfield, David; Adams, Bruce; Goddard, Julian, 1984

Western Australian Artists 1920-1950, Gray, Anne, 1980

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Elise Blumann interviewed by Barbara Blackman \[sound recording\]](#)

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Elise Blumann, artist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

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Created 21 September 2009

Last modified 21 November 2018