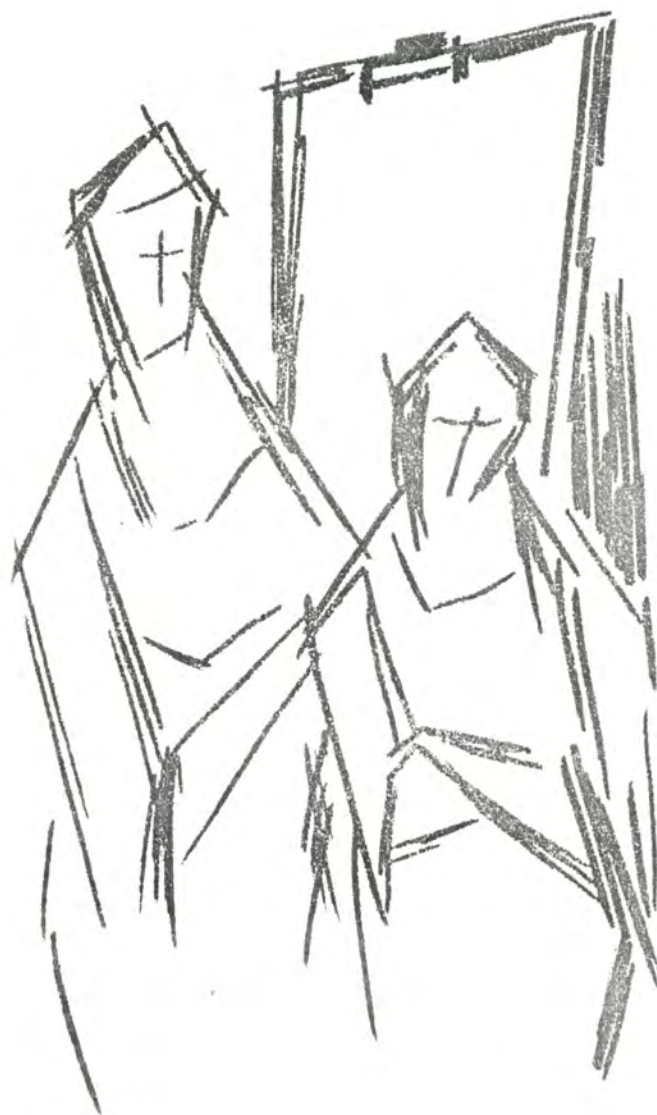


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PORTRAITS OF WOMEN



QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY
9 May - 1 June

PORTRAITS OF WOMEN

This exhibition of portraits of women is not intended to be an historical survey of painting or a sociological study of Australian women, although we can learn much from both aspects if we desire. To gain a fuller appreciation of the works we must let the paintings and subjects speak for themselves; not loudly but in a quiet reflective manner. We have tried to honour womanhood, not with achievements or causes won, but for the role and responsibility a woman has, and that is to be herself...be feminine.

In many cases we will perceive a strong and sympathetic bond between the artist and his subject, for so frequently when an artist becomes completely involved in his subject he may also give us an insight into himself. It is the subject who may bring out qualities and virtues in the artist which may have hitherto been unnoticed in his work.

Unlike a photograph which "never lies" the temptation in portrait painting is to flatter the subject. We see many examples of this in former years when patronage was the more accepted order of the day, but modern portraitists prefer to maintain an honesty within themselves, often risking future commissions as a consequence.

The Queensland Art Gallery does not possess any early Australian portraits of great relevance, the lack of these rather formal works of the ruling class and administrators of our early colony is to be regretted, but in view of their apparent rarity we must look to our other strengths in the collection.

The romantic and somewhat sentimental works of the late 19th century show a public and artistic preference for the idealized image of womanhood - everything is agreeable to the senses, particularly the soft, feathery qualities of the various impressionistic styles. One cannot particularize without excluding worthwhile works but we can generally agree that "our ladies" have dignity and a languid charm which reflects the happier days of our history.

Of more contemporary times, the practice of portraiture has been encouraged, by the now famous Archibald Prize conducted by the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Founded in 1921 it still continues to place the stamp of approval of an artist's work for portraits of men and women distinguished in Arts, Letters, Science or Politics.

Yet it is not easy for an artist today to be exclusively a portraitist and continue to be part of the mainstream of contemporary art. A few exceptions have managed to successfully divide their talents in such a way and retain their creative respectability. Institutions still continue the practice of parading in their boardrooms their stern faced former and present chairmen with almost photographic realistic portraits.

Frequently this appears a fruitless exercise when equally lifeless images can be recorded more cheaply and accurately by the camera. Rembrandt and Hals would have most definitely painted in their own manner had they lived in this age of the camera; and for this reason we should surely honour Sir William Dobell for the strength of his convictions in the face of bitter opposition during the 1944 Archibald Prize debacle. He showed us more than any other Australian portrait painter how deep and sincere a relationship can be between an artist and his subject and each vital, glowing work he has left us exemplifies a truthfulness and integrity which should inspire us all.

Gertrude Stein on looking at a newly completed portrait of herself by Picasso remarked "But it looks nothing like me!" Picasso's immediate and meaningful retort was "Don't worry Gertrude one day it will!!" True to these words, in later years, "the canvas didn't lie".

PAINTINGS EXHIBITED

1. BALE, A.M.E. Oil	Woman Reading 18" x 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	12. DRYSDALE, Sir Russell Oil on canvas	Portrait of a Girl 20" x 16"
2. BALE, A.M.E. Oil	Interior 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 45 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	13. DUNDAS, Douglas Oil on synthetic wood panel	Jan Barber 48" x 23 $\frac{3}{8}$ "
3. BALFOUR, J. Lawson Oil on canvas	Head Study 24" x 20"	14. EDWARDS, Mary Oil on canvas	Portrait in Blue 30" x 24"
4. BARKER, Caroline Oil on canvas	Portrait 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 16"	15. FOX, E. Phillips Oil on canvas	The Letter 72 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
5. BELL, George Oil on canvas	Lady with Fur 23 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 19 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	16. FOX, E. Phillips Oil on canvas	On the Beach 72 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
6. BELL, George Oil	Toinette 15 x 11 $\frac{6}{8}$ "	17. FULLBROOK, Sam Oil	Ernestine Hill 38" x 30"
7. BUNNY, Rupert Oil on canvas	Woman with Rose 62 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	18. FULLBROOK, Sam Oil on canvas	Ruth Bergner 38" x 30"
8. BUNNY, Rupert Oil on canvas	On the Balcony 31 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 25 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	19. GIBSON, Bessie Oil	Portrait with Green Jug 28 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 23"
9. CARTER, Norman Oil on canvas	Lady in Black 37" x 31"	20. GIBSON, Bessie Oil	Mother and Child 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 30"
10. CLAUSEN, Sir George Oil on canvas	The Maiden 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	21. GIBSON, Bessie Oil on canvas	Portrait 28 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
11. DOWLING, Robert Oil on canvas	Mary Drysdale 50" x 40"		

22. GILMAN, Harold	Clarissa	36. McCUBBIN, Fred	The Recipe
Oil on Canvas	24" x 18"	Oil on canvas	26 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 16 $\frac{7}{8}$
23. GOODSIR, Agnes	Paris Studio	37. MUNTZ-ADAMS, J.	Core
Oil on canvas	24 x 19 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	Oil on canvas	32 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 27 $\frac{1}{4}$
24. GREENE, Anne Alison	Portrait Study	38. MERI, Girolamo	Old Lady in a Bonnet
Oil on canvas	21 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 18 $\frac{1}{8}$	Oil on canvas	44 x 26 $\frac{3}{8}$
25. HARRISON, H.B.	Portrait of Woman	39. RAMSAY, Hugh	Portrait Study
Oil on Canvas	30 x 22"	Oil on canvas	35 x 23"
26. HAYSON, Melville	Artist's Wife	40. RAMSAY, Hugh	Portrait of Mrs. Robertson
Oil on canvas	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Oil on Canvas	72 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 40 $\frac{1}{4}$
27. JOHN, Sir Augustus	Village Girl	41. RIGBY, John	Aboriginal Girls
Oil on canvas	26 x 22"	Oil	45 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 35 $\frac{3}{4}$
28. KNIGHT, Dame Laura	Mighty Lak a Rose	42. ROBERTS, Tom	Mrs. McNaughton
Oil on canvas	36 x 28 $\frac{1}{4}$	Oil	61.6 x 48.2 cm
29. LANEY, Vida	Monday Morning	43. SICKERT, Walter	Little Rachael
Oil on canvas	60 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 48 $\frac{3}{4}$	Oil	61 x 51 cm
30. LAMBERT, George	Mrs. Derwent Wood	44. SMITH, Sir Matthew	Head and Shoulders of a Girl
Oil on canvas	36 x 28"	Oil on canvas	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
31. LAFBERT, George	Thea Proctor	45. TOULOUSE-LAUTREC, Henri de	Study of a Head
Oil on canvas	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 15 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	Oil on panel	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 9"
32. LAMBERT, George	The Mother	46. WATERS, Phyl	Beverley
Oil	80 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Oil on synthetic wood panel	16 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
33. LEES, Derwent	Lyndra in 'ales	47. WILSON, Eric	Westminster Girl
Oil on wood panel	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 20"	Oil on canvas	24 x 20 $\frac{1}{2}$
34. LONGSTAFF, Sir John	Aileen		
Oil	30 x 25"		
35. LENINSKY, Bernard	Portrait		
Oil on canvas	20 x 16"		