

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0596

## Heysen, Nora

(1911 - 2003)

<b>Born</b>	11 January, 1911, Hahndorf South Australia Australia
<b>Died</b>	30 December, 2003, Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Artist

### Summary

The daughter of South Australian landscape painter Sir Hans Heysen, Nora Heysen was the first woman to win the Archibald portrait prize (1938) and the first women to be appointed as an Australian war artist on 12 October 1943. During her service Heysen completed over 170 works of art. Following the war she travelled to England and in January 1953 married Dr Robert Black, who was to become the Head of Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney. On 26 January 1998 Nora Heysen was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to art as a painter of portraits and still life subjects.

### Events

**2001 - 2001**  
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

## Published resources

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Nora Heysen, National Library of Australia,  
<http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/noraheysen/index.html>

### Resource Section

HEYSEN, NORA, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=498934>

### Book

You'll be sorry!, Howard, Ann, 1990

Nora Heysen, Klepac, Lou, 1989

Nora Heysen, Klepac, Lou, 2000

### Newspaper Article

In 1938, the first woman to win the Archibald Prize, Pearce, Barry, 2004

A cautious gaze, Meagher, David, 2000

A remarkable artist, Barron, Sonia, 2000

Visions of life in belated focus, O'Brien, Philip, 2000

Painting of the week no. 10: Portrait Study (1933), Nora Heysen (born 1911), Lancashire, Rebecca, 2002

Nora Heysen's back to paint memory lane, McDonald, Patrick, 2003

Noted artist Nora Heysen dies at 92, Safe, Georgina, 2003

Painter made her own mark, Klepac, Lou, 2004

Her voyage was lit by a father's fire, 2004

Trailblazer, Williams, Nadine, 2004

### Sound recording

[Conversation with Nora Heysen], Heysen, Nora, 1911-2003., 1965

### Thesis

Hidden from view [manuscript] : Nora Heysen twentieth century Australian artist, Nockels, Kate., 1997

### Journal Article

Nora Heysen 1911-2003, Groom, Linda, 2004

## Archival resources

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Nora Heysen, 1913-2003 \[manuscript\]](#)

### National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Nora Heysen, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

### National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Nora Heysen interviewed by Denise Hickey in Denise Hickey collection \[sound recording\]](#)

[Nora Heysen interviewed by Heather Rusden \[sound recording\]](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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## Digital resources



**Title:** Lieutenant Colonel Kathleen Best  
**Type:** Image  
**Date:** 3 May, 2023



**Title:** Group Officer Clare Stevenson  
**Type:** Image  
**Date:** 3 May, 2023



**Title:** Lieutenant-Colonel May Douglas  
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**Date:** 3 May, 2023



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