Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE5996

Davidson, Dorothy

Occupation Photographer

Summary

Dorothy Davidson is known for modernist style photographs which captured life on board cruising ships.

Details

There is not a great deal of biographical information about Dorothy Davidson, nor is there information currently available of when she developed an interest in photography. She may have been the daughter of Mr and Mrs W.S. Davidson of Wallsend, NSW. She may also have married Frank Farrow, a Corporal with the AIF in 1943. Neither of these possibilities has been confirmed.

What is known, however, is that she produced two albums of photographs depicting life on board cruising ships in the interwar period. It has been suggested that she was friendly with the captains of some of the cruise ships travelling around the Australian coast during the period 1930-1940s (Hall 79). Such connections enabled Davidson's travel on these ships, and her photographs record life on board, depicting the crew and passengers in their day to day activities as well as the ships' architecture, and the surrounding ocean.

Davidson's photographs are modernist in style and have a contemporary quality to them (Hall 79). She experimented with different angles to frame her work – see, for instance, the images taken from a diagonal angle. In other photographs a vantage point from above was taken. Davidson also used the shadows against waves to define the presence of the ship against the sea.

Collections

Dorothy Davidson Collection, Museum of Victoria

Events

1981 - 1981
Dorothy Davidson's work featured in the *Australian Women Photographers 1840-1950*exhibition

Published resources

Book
Australian Women Photographers 1840 - 1960, Hall, Barbara and Mather, Jenni, 1986

Exhibition Catalogue
Australian Women Photographers 1840-1950, 1981

Newspaper Article
The Area Officer of the Women's Australian National Service(WANS) in Wagga Wagga was Miss Dorothy Davidson of the Gurwood Street School, Tributes,
http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/153319/20150827-0959/tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/smh-au/services/rssdb76.ashx

Weddings, 1943,
http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167620245

Resource Section
Women's Australian National Service (WANS) in Wagga Wagga,
http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/144069/20140128-0847/archivesoutside.records.nsw.gov.au/womens-australian-national-service-w

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Created 10 November 2016
Last modified 10 November 2016