

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE6005

Morris, Gwendolyn

(1904 - 1993)

Born 19040117, South Australia Australia

Died 19931231, South Australia Australia

Occupation Photographer

Summary

Gwendolyn Morris was known for the photographs she created in the Pictorialist style, as well as for her architectural photographs.

Details

Gwendolyn Morris was born on 17 January 1904, in South Australia, into a wealthy family. Her father was Hugh Allan Morris and her mother May Gwendolyn Russell. The family travelled to England in 1923 where they stayed for six to seven months, travelling and sightseeing, and then returned to Australia.

As a young adult Morris would travel to England again, this time staying for a year, attending the London Polytechnic, where she studied photography. She was offered a job with the BBC at the Savoy Hill studios, where her work entailed photographing presenters, printing and enlarging prints for the *Radio Times* and *The Listener*.

During her spare time she wandered through London, taking her own photographs of the architecture, Covent Garden, The Strand and Trafalgar Square. Two of her well-known photographs – *Cleopatra's Needle* and *Adelphi Arches* – were photographed at night. The architectural forms are engulfed by darkness and are only lit in small places by the dim street lighting, creating a mysterious ambience.

Her photographs were included in the catalogues of the Adelaide Camera Club. The Art Gallery of South Australia purchased some of her photographs in 1926 (this was the first State Gallery to add photography to its collection).

She married James Wilmot Griffiths and moved to Berkshire, where she had three children. They moved back to Adelaide for a number of years after the war, but returned to England until her husband retired in 1966.

Morris was also a keen flower arranger and studied under Constance Spry in England. She went on to become a leader of the 'Flower Ladies' at the Lyceum Club in Adelaide.

Collections

Art Gallery of South Australia

Events

2007 - 2008

Gwendolyn Morris's work featured in *A Century in Focus: South Australian Photography, 1840s-1940s*

1981 - 1981

Gwendolyn Morris's work featured in *Australian Women Photographers 1840-1950*

Published resources

Exhibition Catalogue

Australian Women Photographers 1840-1950, 1981

Book

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

A century in focus: South Australian photography, 1840s-1940s, Robinson, Julie, 2007

CD Rom

Dictionary of South Australian Photography, 1845-1915 [electronic resource], Noye, Robert J., 2007

Author Details

Anne Maxwell (with Morfia Grondas and Lucy Van)

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