Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0080

Owen, Gladys Mary

(1889 - 1960)

Born	18890701, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	19600718
Occupation	Artist, Social worker

Summary

Gladys Owen, born into a distinguished Sydney legal family, is best remembered as a painter and print-maker; however, she was a founding member of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Red Cross Society in 1913, and 'inherited a fluency in public speaking and tenacity in advocacy and lobbying' (*Heritage*). The *Sydney Morning Herald*, reviewing her 1922 art exhibition, noted that Owen's 'patriotic activities during the war diminished the importance of her contributions to the art life of the State' (20 March 1922, p.5). It was for these services she was appointed OBE (Officer of The Order of the British Empire) in 1918. Owen was the founding joint honorary secretary (1914-1927) of the Society's New South Wales branch and became a vice-president in 1927. According to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry on her husband, fellow artist John Moore, Owen's commitment to the Red Cross and advocacy in social work was life long: 'She was a director of the civil section of the Women's Australian National Service in 1940, a council-member of the State division of the Red Cross 1940-49 and of national headquarters in 1943-49, and honorary secretary of the State Red Cross Field Service in 1941-43. From 1950 she was president of the Council of Social Service of New South Wales'.

Published resources

Resource Section
Owen, Gladys Mary (1889-1961), 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110725b.htm

Moore, John Drummond Macpherson (1888-1958), Flower, Cedric, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100553b.htm

Book Section
Owen, Gladys Mary (1889-1960), painter, print-maker, embroiderer, radio presenter and programmer, social worker, public speaker and arts administrator, Newton, Gael, 1995

Book
The Ladies' picture show: sources on a century of Australian women artists, Ambrus, Caroline, c1984

Advice to soldiers and their dependents, compiled by Gladys Owen, Owen, Gladys, 1917

The art of Gladys Owen Moore, OBE (1889-1960): an exhibition in retrospect, arranged by Scott Erickson, Erickson, Scott, c1976

Newspaper Article
A life swimming hard for political equality, Owen, Mary R and Graham, Janet, 2003

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Gladys Owen, artist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

State Library of New South Wales
Wood engravings by Gladys Owen, 1920s-1950s and woodcut by Maud Sherwood, 1920s-1930s

Author Details
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