

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0137

Burke, Frances Mary

(1907 - 1994)

Born	1 January, 1907, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	14 October, 1994
Occupation	Artist, Businesswoman, Designer

Summary

Frances Mary Burke was appointed as a Member of the British Empire on the 1 January 1970 for her contribution to art and design. In 1937 she established with fellow graduate Morris Holloway Australia's first registered textile printery – Burway Prints. The Frances Burke Textile Resource Centre at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology was named in her honour. The centre now forms part of the RMIT Design Archives.

Events

1987 - 1987

Director of Arts Honoris Causa at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

1980 - 1983

Chairman of the Course Advisory Committee in Textile Design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

1977 - 1981

Member of council at University College Melbourne

1968 - 1968

Foundation council member of the National Printery Council

1968 - 1971

President of the Arts and Crafts Society

1940 - 1940

Exhibiting member of the Arts and Crafts Society

1958 - 1966

Council member at the Museum of Modern Art and Design Australia

1958 - 1958

Foundation member of the Industrial Design Institute of Australia (now Design Institute of Australia)

1947 - 1947

Foundation member of the Society of Industrial Designers

1942 - 1942

Commissioned to design fabrics for first Australian Embassy Washington, USA

1938 - 1938

Foundation member of the Contemporary Arts Society

1937 - 1937

Founded Burway Prints, the first registered textile screen printery in Australia (Frances Burke Fabrics Pty Ltd)

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia, 1988, Cadman, Kerith A, 1988

Heritage : the national women's art book, 500 works by 500 Australian women artists from colonial times to 1955, Kerr, Joan, 1995

Thesis

A study of the work of Dr Francis Mary Burke, MBE, textile designer, with particular reference to the development of printed textile design in Australia., Oswald-Jacobs, Robyn, 1997

Book

Francis Burke fabrics / Department of Fashion & Textile Design, RMIT, Oswald-Jacobs, Robyn, [1996]

From the night / [poems by Maie Casey ; drawings by Frances Burke], Casey, Maie, [1976]

Exclusive hand prints, Burke, Frances Mary, 1996

Women as designers in Australia, De Nijs, Jenny, 1986

Catalogue

Frances Burke fabrics, 1937-1965 ; Gerry Wedd and Mambo, Green, Erica, 1999

Newspaper Article

Designer who did it her way, 1996

The fabric of a society [review], 1997

Resource Section

Burke, Frances, 2000,
<http://www.cyberfibres.rmit.edu.au/biogs/TRC0005b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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>

Archival resources

National Gallery of Australia, Research Library Archive

[Papers of Frances Burke c1940s-c1960s / Frances Mary. Burke](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood and Clare Land

Created 8 October 2002

Last modified 6 September 2010