

Rosemary Pratt

Student at Perth Modern School from 1950-1954

Curator, PMS Art Collection, 2001 - 2014

MODERNA SCOLA 2018

Rosemary Pratt (née Mount)

PMS student 1950-1954

Researched and wrote History of Art chapter for *Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage*

Former Hon Curator, PMS Art Collection, reporting to the H&MC

Former Hon Curator, PMS Art Collection, reporting to the Principal

Rosemary retired as the Australian Director and Manager of the Christensen Fund, an international philanthropic organisation promoting exhibitions of Australian art overseas and within Australia (Olsen, Coburn, Whitely, Jimmy Pike, Sally Morgan, Charles Blackman, etc). She had also been Executive Secretary, Northern Australian Development Committee, and a Research Officer in the Office of Regional Development, WA State Government. Rosemary is also a Past President of the Friends of the Art Gallery of WA.

With this background, Rosemary was invited by the Sphinx Foundation in 2004 to write a chapter on the Art Collection for the Perth Modernian Society's first book "Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage". Her contribution was thoroughly researched and of great interest to all when the book was published in 2005.

Perth Modern School has a significant and diverse art collection. Since the school's establishment, paintings especially have been acquired through purchase and donation. Sadly, for a time neither the aesthetic nor monetary value of the collection was appreciated, and it was neglected. The knowledge and interest Rosemary developed in art has been to Perth Modern School's advantage as in 2001 Rosemary created the inaugural data base of the school's extensive art collection.

This was also the beginning of Rosemary's commitment to the role of Hon Curator for Perth Modern School. After she retired from outside roles, Rosemary made it her mission to professionally curate the PMS art collection, almost single-handedly. For more than a decade Rosemary worked with the collection, ensuring that it was properly documented and accessioned. She then set about digitising the records on to the database. Artworks in poor condition were restored and reframed. New pieces by Modernians and previous art teachers were purchased, and the PMS Art Collection was revalued. Rosemary developed a strategy for the proper display of collection items throughout the School, ensuring that the more valuable pieces were hung in a way that did not compromise their condition. She worked in consultation with the Principal and the Historical & Museum Committee. In 2009, she officially became the Hon Art Curator for Perth Modern School, a position she held until 2014.

Because of Rosemary's ground-breaking work Perth Modern School is seen as a civic institution that values cultural endeavour and respects its long heritage dating back to 1911. When visitors come to the School, they now can readily see the works of art properly displayed and labelled. On her recommendation the Principal and teaching staff are now working to strengthen the school's sculpture collection to balance its art collection.

Rosemary took an active interest in the *Save PMS Campaign* in 2017 and supports the Sphinx Scholarship Fund.

Rosemary, you have made a long and significant contribution both to the community and Perth Modern School.

The Perth Modernians Society is pleased to bestow upon you the honour of MODERNA SCOLA. Your name will be permanently recorded on the Moderna Scola Honours Board in the Society's History Centre and Museum.

This award entitles you to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions.

9th September 2018