

## Stories from the Archives: Adelaide Elizabeth Perry 1891-1973

THE ADELAIDE PERRY GALLERY, opened in 2001, honours an art teacher extraordinaire. Adelaide Perry began teaching at PLC Sydney on a part-time basis in 1930 upon the recommendation of Roy de Maistre. She continued at the College for over 30 years until her retirement as Art Mistress in 1962.

The Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, one of Australia's premier art awards, celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

Perry's artistic career began in 1914 at the National Gallery School where she studied with Frederick McCubbin. After World War I she travelled to Paris and then studied at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

After resettling in Sydney she established her own Chelsea Art School, which continued for 20 years. Her successful students included Eric Thake, Vera Blackburn and Paul Haefliger. She also taught drawing, printmaking and painting at the Sydney Art School in the 1930s with Julian Ashton and Thea Proctor.

She was an advocate of the linocut technique, was admired for her skill as a draughtswoman, practised the *en plein air* technique and promoted the importance of drawing from life.

Miss Perry painted portraits of three of PLC Sydney's principals: Dr Wilkie, Miss Macindoe and Miss Whitlam. Her works are held by the Art Gallery of NSW, National Gallery of Victoria, Queensland Art Gallery and the National Library.

Some of her sketches are currently on display in the Marden Heritage Centre.



Adelaide Perry in front of the "art hut";  
an army hut left at the College by the RAAF  
after World War II. c1949



A pencil drawing from one of Adelaide Perry's sketch books.