



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY

STUDENT WORKSHEET SECONDARY

The New Charge: Australian Women Modernists
9 February - 7 April 2013



modernist

“I am not the sort of
person who could sit at
home and knit socks”

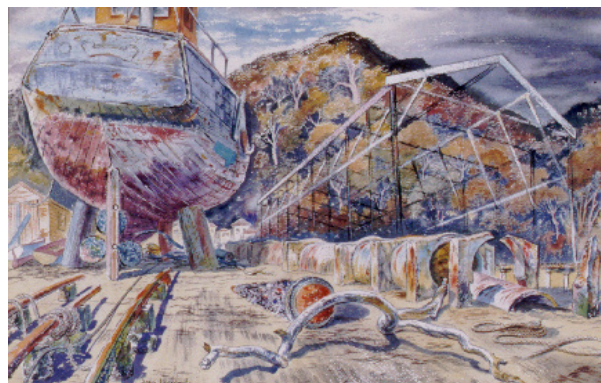
- Thea Proctor

women

artists

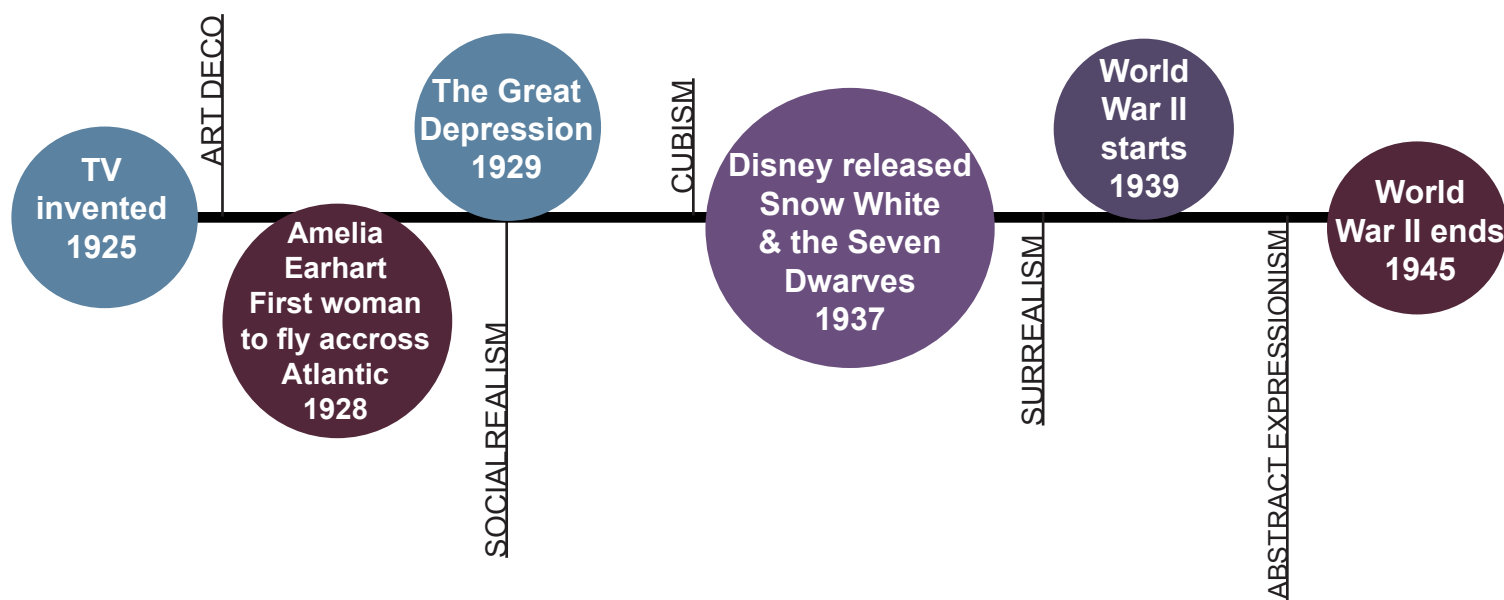


Background information



The New Charge; Australian Women Modernists, is an exhibition showing at Lismore Regional Gallery. It displays the works of Australian women artists who had a strong artistic careers during the time of 1925-1945, (artworks by these artists from the years after 1945 will also be shown in this exhibition). The art of this time is called Modern Art. Modern Art is type of art that was made from the 1860s to the 1970s, in this time artists made artworks using new techniques and styles and different subject matter from the past. The artworks in *The New Charge; Australian Women Modernists*, showcases the development of modernist interpretations of Australian subjects and the Women who were the vanguard of this movement in Australia.

BIG CHANGES MODERN TIMES 1925 - 1945



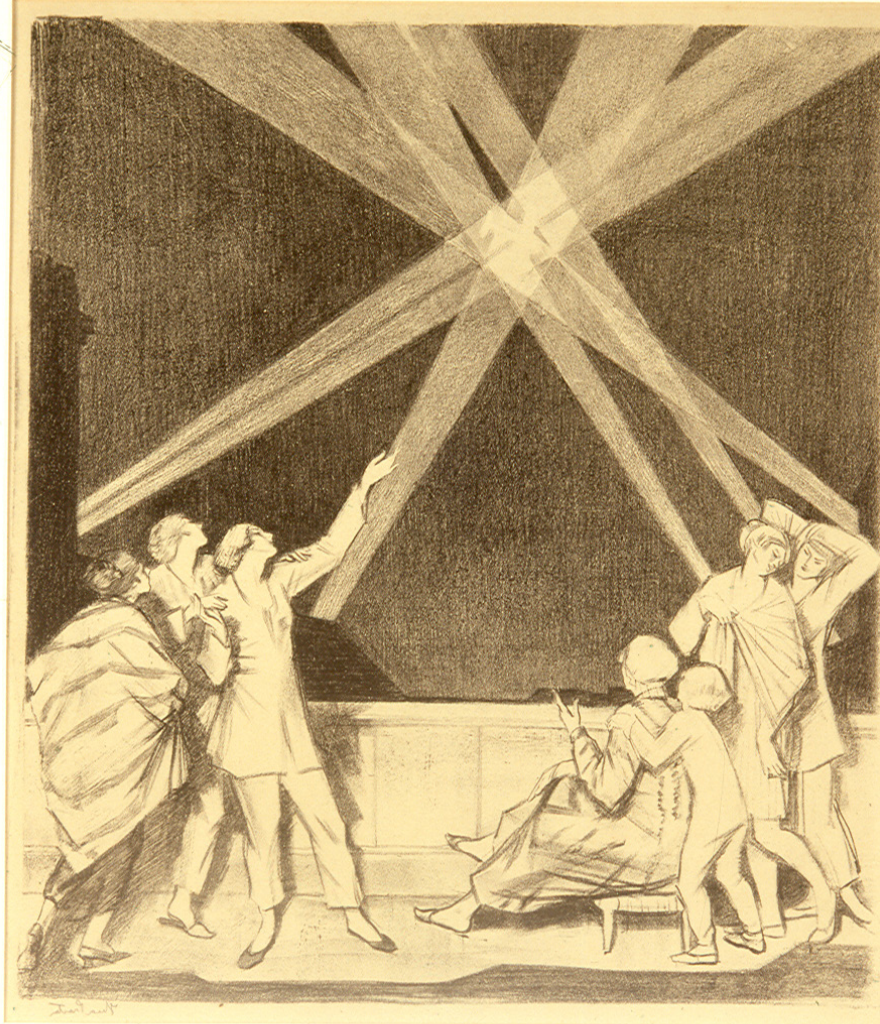
The artists in *The New Charge* exhibition pushed against the roles expected of women in their time. This period saw a growth in social freedom and many of the female artists in this exhibition had the opportunity to travel outside of Australia and became familiar with developments of Modernism in Europe. Together they injected new vitality and a modern vision into the Australian art world. They made art that pushed the boundaries of art in Australia, while creating works of art that used Australian subject matter as well as colours and design elements to represent the Australian landscape and culture.



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1925-1945 **BIG** changes occurred

In this period the Jazz era was in full swing and then in 1939 WWII began in Europe. From 1939-1945 many men and women were working as soldiers, doctors and nurses and (sometimes even war artists) in the war. They were fighting the war in countries far away from Australia. Because many men went away to war, back home in Australia some women took on different work that was traditionally seen as men's jobs this really changed women's position in society as well as their own ideas about what they could do and the different choices they could make in their lives.

“The Economic boom years before the devastation of the Great Depression of 1929 to 1931 also saw a growth of social freedom, a development particularly beneficial for women. The opportunity to travel was once more available to those artists who had been obliged to wait out the war before they could leave for study abroad”

- Hylton, Jane, (2004) *Modern Australian Women (Paintings & Prints, 1925-1945)*, Adelaide, South Australia, Art Gallery of South Australia 2004



Key Words

Here are some types of artworks you might see in the exhibition

PAINTING

A **painting** is an artwork that uses paint or ink to make an image. Usually paint is applied with a paint brush but sometimes people use their hands, sticks, spray cans or other tools to apply the paint.

Print

A **print** is a form of visual art in which a mark or impression is made in or on a surface by using pressure. Artists put ink onto the surface of a piece of wood, lino or metal etching plate that has been scratched or cut into, then press onto paper to make a print. We can also make prints with our hands or our feet they are called handprints or footprints.

Drawing

Drawing is a form of visual art that uses of any number of drawing instruments to make marks on a surface such as paper. Tools you could use to draw include graphite, pencils, pens, charcoal, chalk and pastels.

Portrait

A **portrait** is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic image of a person, especially one showing the face and its expression as the main focus.

Still Life

A **still life** artwork is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic image that displays mostly inanimate subject matter (something that is not alive). Still life artworks often feature everyday objects which may be either natural or man-made. Such as flowers, shells, teapots, glasses, bowls and fruit.

Landscape

Landscape art can be a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic image of natural scenery such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, forests, paddocks and hills.



Thea Proctor, *The tame bird* 1924, lithograph, 29.5 x 29.5cm, Donated by Elsin Carter, 1969, Lismore Regional Gallery Permanent Collection



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Questions & Activities

Welcome to Lismore Regional Gallery!

As you walk around the gallery see if you can find these pictures and answer the following questions

Margaret Preston: *Mosman-Bridge*

1. Is this artwork a still life, landscape or portrait? _____
2. What country do you think the trees and plants in this artwork come from?

3. Use the Structural Frame to list some of the design elements, materials, techniques, colours that Margaret Preston has used to make this artwork.

Grace Cossington- Smith *The Dressing Table*

1. What is the subject matter in this artwork? _____
2. List 4 objects you see in this picture?

Thea Proctor: *Women at table (Interior with two women and cat)*

1. Is it a print, drawing or painting? _____
2. Using the Subjective Frame describe how the colours in this artwork make you feel?



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Make a sketch of your favourite artwork in the Exhibition



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[illegible]