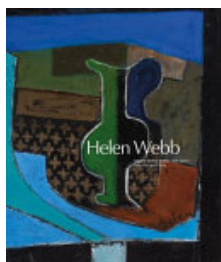


## Helen Webb: Helen Marie Webb (1921-2017) a Retrospective



C. Newman

Spitting Image, 31 Mar 2021

An ardent and perfectionistic aesthete she experimented in all the styles of modernism from post-impressionism and surrealism through cubism and abstract expressionism. Helen mostly refused during her lifetime to exhibit or sell her works, objecting to the commodification of the art process which she believed should be the natural birthright of all human beings. In her view, the capitalist art machine tended to stunt expression of this finer aspect of our common humanity. This collection of her surviving art output is presented to the public for the first time in a breathtaking explosion of colour and perfected form. The accompanying notes by her nephew explore the five major stages of her productive life, culminating in a return to a Cézanne style classicism imbued with her own vibrant colourist palette influenced by the Australian tropics. An astute introduction by arts writer Anna Johnson observes the unique and hitherto hidden place that her work occupies in Australian art history, and the particular contribution and hurdles faced by an outstanding painter.

### About the author (2021)

Born near Bondi Beach in Sydney in 1957, Campbell [not-the-ex-Queensland-premier] studied Fine Arts at the University of Sydney (1977-78). For some years he lived in the Yarra Ranges, Victoria. He holds a Social Science degree, and has worked as nurse, crisis counsellor and wine consultant. He currently lives on the Gold Coast, Queensland, with wife Wendy and cat Letitia. Interests include wine (naturally), bush-hiking and classical music.

Anna Johnson (Introduction). Anna began her life as an art writer and author interviewing Sean Scully for Vanity Fair. Over thirty years of writing have been dedicated to covering all forms of Australian contemporary art with a primary focus on painting. Anna has written major essays on Hany Armanious, Raymond Arnold, Elisabeth Cummings, Fiona Hall, Richard Goodwin, Michael Johnson, John Olsen, Rodney Pople, Ken Unsworth, Justine Varga and Jenny Watson. She is also the author of the monograph 'Ann Thomson'.

### Bibliographic information

See next page >>

## Bibliographic information



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