

Rosser, Celia Elizabeth

b. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Residence: Australia

Education:

Diploma, Fashion Design, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia

Career:

Fashion illustration, Alexander Moulton Advertising, Melbourne, 1948–1952

Self exploration and development of innovative techniques in painting and drawing in botanical art; teaching these techniques, 1955–1968

Science Faculty Artist, scientific illustrations and diagrams for Departments of Mathematics, Zoology, Botany, Psychology and Chemistry, 1970

Painted series of Banksias for monographs I, II, III, 1974–1999

Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne, 1994, 1996

Guest lecturer, University of Amsterdam, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, 1995

Launch of Volume III of *The Banksias*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 2000

Botanical artist

Membership:

American Society of Botanical Artists

Medium:

Watercolor

Group Exhibition(s):

Botanical Artists of Australia, National Herbarium of New South Wales, Australia, 1984

Banksia Spectacular, National Herbarium of New South Wales, 1986

Wildflowers in Art, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, 1991

Art of Botanical Illustration, National Herbarium of Victoria, Melbourne, 1992

Classifying Nature (Melbourne's International Festival for the Arts), Westpac Gallery, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne, (with Anita Barlety, Jenny Phillips, and Margaret Stones), 1994

Contemporary Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection, Kew Gardens Gallery, England, 1996; and subsequent travel to US, Australia, Japan, South Africa and Sweden through 1999

One-Person Exhibition(s):

Leveson Gallery, Melbourne. 1965

Wildflowers of Victoria, Leveson Gallery, Melbourne, 1968

The Banksias, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne, (18 paintings from Volume I), 1978; (24 paintings from Volume 1), 1983

The Banksias, Volume II (exhibition and lecture), State Bank of Victoria, Melbourne, 1988

The Banksias (Volume I and II), Coolart Gallery, Victoria, Australia, 1988; National Herbarium of Victoria, 1989; Horsham Art Gallery, Victoria, 1989; Sale Art Gallery, Victoria, 1989; Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria, 1992; Westpac Gallery, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne, 1992

The Banksias (selection of 24 paintings from Volume I and II and lecture), Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria, 1989

The Banksias, Darwin Main Library, NT, Australia, 1990

The Banksias, selection of 20 paintings from Volumes I and II and lecture), International Protea Congress, Perth, Australia, 1992

The Banksias, (48 paintings from Volume I, II and III), Kew Gardens Gallery, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, 1993; Usher Gallery, Lincoln, England, 1994

The Banksias, Volume I and II, Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia, 1995

The Banksias, Volume I and II (travelling exhibition), La Trobe Vallery Art Centre, Victoria; Benalla Art Gallery; Hamilton Art Gallery; Sale Regional Art Gallery (regional galleries of Victoria, Australia), 1998/99

The Banksias Volume III, Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 2000

The Banksias (from the Monash University collection, 76 paintings from Vol. I, II, and III), Exhibition Gallery, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 2001

Honor(s)/Award(s):

Master of Science *honoris causa*, Monash University, Melbourne, 1981

The Banksias, Volume I monograph presented to Queen Elizabeth II, by the Hon. Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and citizens of Australia, 1982

The Banksias, Volume II monograph presented to Queen Elizabeth II, by the Hon. Paul Keating, Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and citizens of Australia, 1992

Avon Spirit of Achievement Award for contribution to the Arts, Sydney, 1994

Medal of the Order of Australia for contribution to botanical art, 1995

Linneaus Jill Smythies Medal for Botanical Illustration, Linnean Society of London, 1997

The Banksias, Volume III monograph presented to Queen Elizabeth II by Hon. John Howard, Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and citizens of Australia, 2000

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, Monash University, Melbourne, 2000

Collections:

Dr. Shirley Sherwood, London
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh
Monash University, Victoria

Commissions:

The Six Victorian Banksias, National Herbarium of Victorian, Melbourne, 1967

Banksia serrata, Australian Academy of Science for presentation to the Royal Society of London (to mark the beginning of the Bicentenary Celebration of Captain Cook's first voyage to the Pacific), 1969

Australia Post issue (*Fungi* — 4 stamps, First Day — cover and stamp pack), 1981

Unicover, Wyoming, USA issue (First Day — cover designs to accompany the Australian Fungi stamps), 1981
Cocos (Keeling) Islands issue (*Life Cycle of the Coconut* — 4 stamps), 1987
Australia Post issue (*Golden Wattle* stamp, Australia Day), 1990; *Christmas Island Orchid*—5 stamps, 1994; *Banksias* — 5 pre-stamped envelopes, 1996; *Christmas Island Fungi*—2 stamps, 2001
Australian Federation Centenary Commemorative tapestry, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne, Victoria (depicting Australian State emblems with cartoonist Bruce Petty), 2001

Work Reproduced In:

Bridgewater, P. 1971. *Salt Marsh Plants of Southern Australia*. Australia: Monash University.
Mosses of Southern Australia. 1976. Australia: Academic Press.
Wildflowers of Victoria. 1967. Melbourne: Jacaranda Press.
The Banksias. 1981. Vol. I. Australia: Monash University in association with Academic Press.
The Banksias. 1988. Vol. II. Australia: Monash University in association with The State Bank of Victoria.
The Banksias: Watercolours by Celia Rosser. Volumes I and II handbook. 1993. Melbourne: Monash University.
The Banksias. 2000. Volume III. Australia: Monash University, Australia in association with Nokomis Publications.

Bibliography:

Blunt, W. and W. Stearn. 1994. *Art of Botanical Illustration*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Antique Collectors Club/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. P. 313.
Hewson, H. 1999. *300 Years of Botanical Illustration*. Australia: CSIRO. Pp. 177–178.
Sherwood, S. 1996. *Contemporary Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Pp. 160–163.
Sherwood, S. 2001. *A Passion for Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks from the Shirley Sherwood Collection*. London: Cassell and Co.

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Banksia grandis 2001
Watercolor 76 × 57.5 cm
Lent by the artist