

## Charles Blackman

### Bio

Currently lives in Sydney

1976-2001 - Lived and painted in NSW, Queensland, WA

1975 - Occupied Australian studio, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris

1966-74 - Lived and painted in Sydney

1965 - Tour of northern France and Flanders

1960-64 - Travelled and studied overseas after winning Helena Rubinstein Scholarship. Lived and painted in London, exhibited at Whitechapel and Tate Galleries

1950s - Painted Schoolgirl series, followed by Alice in Wonderland series

1945-60 - Lived and painted in Melbourne

1943-46 - Studied East Sydney Technical College

1928 - Born Sydney, Australia

Blackman, born in Sydney, left school at thirteen (some sources say fifteen) and worked as an illustrator with the Sydney *Sun* newspaper while attending night classes at East Sydney Technical College (1943-46). He came to notice following his move to Melbourne in the mid-1940s, where he became friends with becoming friends with Joy Hester and John Perceval as well as gaining the support of critic and art patron John Reed. His work met critical acclaim through his early 'Schoolgirl' and 'Alice' series, the latter Blackman's conception of Lewis Carroll's most famous character. For some time while painting the 'Alice' series, Blackman worked as a cook at a cafe run by fellow artist Mirka Mora. Blackman married the poet Barbara Patterson in 1951.

In 1959 he was a signatory to the Antipodean Manifesto, a statement protesting the dominance of abstract expressionism. The manifesto's adherents have been dubbed the Antipodeans Group. His work is associated with dreamlike images tinged with mystery and foreboding. In 1960 he lived in London after winning the Helena Rubenstein Scholarship, settling in Sydney upon his return six years later. After twenty-seven years of marriage, Patterson divorced Blackman in 1978 and he remarried in 1989. He has won many prizes and distinctions, culminating in a major retrospective in 1993 and an OBE for services to Australian art in 1997.

A portrait of Charles Blackman by Jon Molvig won the Archibald Prize in 1966. Taken from Wikipedia.

### Exhibitions

Charles Blackman has been involved in numerous solo and group exhibitions around Australia as well as London and Tokyo. His major retrospective was at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1993 entitled 'Charles Blackman: Schoolgirls and Angels.

### Awards

1997 - OBE

1963 - Georges Invitation Art Prize, Georges Gallery Melbourne (one painting and one drawing)

1960 - Helena Rubinstein Scholarship, Melbourne

1960 - George Crouch Prize, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

1960 - Wins prize. A. Shore, *The Age* (February)

1958 - George Crouch Prize, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

1958 - Rowney prize, Richmond Gallery Melbourne

### Collections

National Gallery of Australia, and all state galleries

Numerous regional galleries and university collections