



Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

April 2018

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Welcome to the April 2018 newsletter and hope everyone had a Happy Easter and school holiday break

Volunteers needed...

**COME AND HELP THE FRIENDS BE A WONDERFUL
HISTORICAL GROUP.**



Printing of newsletter



Printed copies of our newsletters are provided courtesy of
SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

www.scotsburn.biz

The Friends thank Scotsburn. Their kind assistance is most appreciated.

Contributions to our newsletter are welcomed. Email for further information to info@foskc.org

REFERENCES:

Sybil Craig interviewed by Barbara Blackman [sound recording]. Craig, Sybil, 1901-1989. (Interviewee); 1987, English, Sound, Interview, lecture, talk edition:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/15432252?q&versionId=18131876>

Sybil Craig, Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10676776>

Dianne Reilly, 'Craig, Sybil Mary Frances (1901–1989)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/craig-sybil-mary-frances-12363/text22213>, published first in hardcopy 2007

Olga Tsara, Sybil Craig: a life in pictures <https://blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/such-was-life/sybil-craig-a-life-in-pictures/>



Sybil Craig in ballet costume, SLV MS13111/3/1622

Featured Article

SYBIL MARY FRANCES CRAIG OAM

Artist; Official Australian WW11 War Artist

1901-1989

Buried CE D 220



Studio portrait of Sybil Craig SLV MS13111/3/1614;

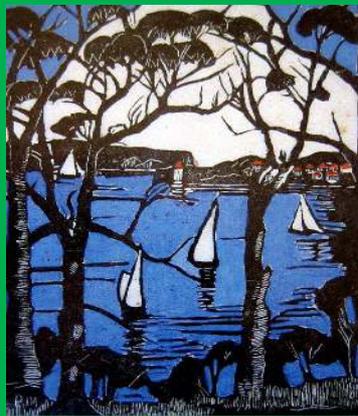
Sybil Craig's bright and vibrant paintings, filled with colour and light, highlight her vitality and enthusiastic outlook on life.

Born on 18 November 1901 at Southgate, London, the only child of Australian-born parents Matthew Francis Craig, architect and surveyor, and his wife Winifred Frances, née Major, Sybil experienced life in a "suburban bohemian household" frequented by musicians and artists. The Craigs resided first at Brighton, and after 1914 at Caulfield, in a house designed by Sybil's father, which remained her home for the rest of her life.

As a child, she studied ballet, and wanted to be a dancer, and dance remained one of her passions. In interviews later in her life, Craig described a childhood in which she loved family, cousins, the cat in the house, loved climbing, and was interested in motorbikes and her appearance. She loved berets and unconventional clothes. In 1920 she was encouraged by her family and friends to attend drawing classes with John Shirlow who introduced her, through reproductions, to Impressionism and to Post-Impressionists such as Gauguin and Matisse.



Sybil Craig, Peggy Crombie (1933)



Sybil Craig, Breakwater; NGV



AWM: Sybil Craig, Mrs Joy Shrugg,
Munitions Worker

Although a shy only child, she continued her art studies at the National Gallery of Victoria's school of painting with Bernard Hall, William McInnes and Charles Wheeler. "A wonderful place" as she described it. Her enthusiasm for design drew her to classes with Robert Timmings at Melbourne Technical College in 1935.

Craig's first solo exhibition, at the Athenaeum Gallery in 1932, included subjects ranging from still life to portraits. Her portrait work stands out and was a form she enjoyed; "everyone is interesting to paint", she said. Accomplished in oils, watercolours and pastels, Craig also applied her talent for design to line-drawings for book-plates and emblems. She was a foundation member of the New Melbourne Art Club and, during the 1930s and 1940s, exhibited with the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, the Victorian Artists Society, and the Twenty Melbourne Painters.

Between 1936 and 1951 she maintained a Collins Street studio. However her life centred around home, family and friends, and apart from numerous seascapes reflecting the time spent at the family's beach house at Canadian Bay on the Mornington Peninsula, she withheld more innovative works from sale, saying she doubted their quality and that as an "advantaged only child" she lacked the stimulus to "earn a living".

This level of uncertainty was short lived as in March 1945 Craig was the third woman to be appointed as an official war artist, following the appointments of artists Stella Bowen and Nora Heysen. Commissioned by the Australian War Memorial (under pressure to appoint modernist artists) and encouraged by her parents, she accepted and, being reluctant to go overseas as part of the commission, began duty on 1 March based in Melbourne, working for four months at the Commonwealth Ordnance Factory at Maribyrnong. There she became the first female artist to paint women working in the munitions factories. One reason she chose this assignment was that she could travel there by tram and thus Craig's official paintings and drawings are relatively small in size, probably because she carried her canvases and materials on the tram on her way to the munitions factory. As she was working in a civilian factory, Craig was able to retain her civilian status and was not required to wear a uniform even though she was officially of officer rank. She enjoyed the company of the female workers and admired their use of the heavy machinery designed for men. That admiration for women munitions workers is evident in the seventy-nine works held by the AWM that are wonderful depictions of women at work during wartime, doing jobs never before available to them. Inspired by the industrial scenes that surrounded her, Craig continued to explore colour and design, capturing the variety of often dangerous tasks the women performed. Her works depicting civilian women working in the detonator section of the Commonwealth Explosives



AWM; Sybil Craig; No 1 projectile shop
(Commonwealth Ordnance Factory,
Maribyrnong)



Sybil Craig, Self portrait, SLV
H89.282



SPRINGVALE BOTANICAL
CEMETERY

Factory within the repetitive environment of the industrial space, according to Craig, showed the most colourful sections of the factory.

This wartime experience encouraged Craig to become a more “instinctive” artist, and more exploratory in her media and style. Her second solo exhibition was held at Georges Gallery in 1948. Thirty years later Jim Alexander, director of the Important Woman Artists Gallery, East Malvern, persuaded her to present a retrospective (1978) of her work. It inspired renewed critical appreciation and the purchase of several paintings by major public galleries. Another exhibition was held in 1982. From the late 1950s she began to abandon oil painting, being committed to taking care of her parents.

In all her work Craig was attracted to many changing ideas and continued to explore line, rhythm, colour, simplicity and design.

Her works are well represented at the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the State Library of Victoria, the Art Gallery of South Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria and regional galleries in Victoria.

A beautiful young woman with Titian hair, she was painted by Rupert Bunny in 1928. She is remembered for her remarkable memory and keen sense of fun, as shines through in a set of interviews in her later years with Barbara Blackman. Throughout her life she remained “devastatingly direct” and “almost overwhelmingly vital”. In 1981 she was awarded the OAM. She died on 15 September 1989 in a nursing home at Surrey Hills. Craig said she had the joy of meeting wonderfully interesting people, had many artist friends and outlived many of them...an extremely good life.

Cemetery news

CEMETERY NEWS

Springvale Botanical Cemetery welcomes community engagement and hosts a series of events throughout the year. These include services to commemorate All Souls Day, Police Remembrance Day, the Ching Ming Festival and Christmas remembrances services.

They also host botanical and historical tours, conduct a series of interesting presentations and historical and botanical talks and involve the community in rose pruning demonstrations.

Have a look what is happening at Springvale on the link below:

<https://sbc.smct.org.au/news-and-events/>

PARIS CEMETERIES

Did you know there are 19 cemeteries within the 20 arrondissements or wards of Paris, but only 14 of those are operated by the city of Paris?

1. Auteuil
2. Batignolles
3. Belleville
4. Bercy
5. Calvaire - no longer active
6. Charonne
7. Grenelle
8. La Villette
9. Montmartre
10. Montparnasse
11. Passy
12. Père-Lachaise
13. Saint-Vincent
14. Vaugirard



Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris

Of the other five, Gentilly, Montrouge, Valmy and Saint-Mande are managed by local governments and Picpus in the 12th arr. is private.

Those interested in **Paris Cemeteries**, the final resting places of some of the world's most famous people, will love this website and in particular its newsletter and beautiful photography. Have a look at the link below for some fascinating articles about **Pere Lachaise Cemetery** and much more

<http://www.pariscemeteries.com/news-1/>

MATTHEW FLINDER'S LOST GRAVE, ST JAMES' GARDENS, LONDON

When he died in 1814, at the age of 40, Flinders was buried in St. James' Gardens, a churchyard in north London next to today's Euston Station. In the biggest exhumation in British history, up to 61,000 bodies were removed from St. James' burial ground in 2017 to make way for the planned £56 billion construction of the High-Speed 2 railway. A memorial service for the 61,000 bodies was held in August last year; St James' Gardens is now permanently closed. It is such a shame to see old cemeteries and all their history disappear in this fashion.

Read more on link below.

<https://www.history.com/news/where-is-matthew-flinders-body>



Matthew Flinders



FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page **Residents and Friends of St Kilda Cemetery** has become very popular. As well as news about FOSKC, other items of interest and news from other Cemetery Friends Groups, both here in Australia and also in UK are included, as well as shared pages providing details of WW1 veterans bios and graves, newspaper articles and so much more. We have special featured posts from time to time with bios and photos of historic persons buried at St Kilda Cemetery and elsewhere on our born this day/died this day posts.

We can't put everything into a newsletter, but try to include up to date news and events on our Facebook page on a daily basis.

Why not Follow us on Facebook and see for yourself

St Kilda Cemetery is located on the corner of Dandenong Road and Hotham Street, ST KILDA EAST

Future Tours and events

PLEASE NOTE: The new toilets in cemetery are near front gate and now operational for future tours

FURTHER TOURS FOR 2018:

Anzac Tour, Sunday 29 April at 2.00pm

What a Way to Go! Unusual Deaths, Sunday 27 May at 2.00pm

June and July tours/events to be announced

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS OF ALL FUTURE TOURS AND EVENTS

Tour Cost \$10; members free. Afternoon tea included. Bookings: email preferred info@foskc.org; or tel: Sheila 9531 3648 or Liz 0422379053

All our tours leave from the main entrance to the cemetery in Dandenong Road. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as we go all weathers, rain, hail or shine.

Private Group Tours for 2018

We hope to do some tours for private groups in 2018. If your group is interested, please email info@foskc.org for more details. We charge \$10 per head for group tours and if possible, an afternoon/morning tea will be provided.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON OUR TOURS IN 2018. WON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US!

Become a member of the Friends...

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US...

Membership costs \$15, includes free tours throughout the year and newsletter. Email info@foskc.org for a membership form.

