

Simone Merry 1906 – 2005

Retrospective Exhibition held at the Embroiderers' Guild NSW Headquarters in August 2014

Simone Merry and her husband Basil migrated to Australia after WWII. Simone, a violinist, studied at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and Basil studied at Kings College London. They established their home in Sydney in 1950.

Simone was appointed as a violin teacher circa 1960 at the prestigious Abbotsleigh Anglican School for girls in Wahroonga. This is where she met Dorothea Allnut, also a teacher at Abbotsleigh. Dorothea was one of the founding members of the Embroiderers' Guild N.S.W. The two women became firm friends. According to her daughter Vanessa Woodhill, it was Dorothea who encouraged Simone to do original and creative embroidery.

Simone's oeuvre includes formalist art, with its exploration of compositional elements, and figurative or representational art, in which she responded to events and circumstances in her life. It is a very idiosyncratic body of work.