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Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium



Ludwik Dutkiewicz, botanical illustrator: 2 February 1921 – 30 April 2008

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Ludwik Dutkiewicz was amongst an important influx of artists, who migrated to Australia after the Second World War and influenced the direction of Australian art (Dutkiewicz 2000). He arrived in Adelaide shortly before his brother and fellow artist Wladyslaw in 1949.

His expressionist and abstract style was almost immediately recognised. He was installed as a Fellow of the Royal South Australian Society of Arts after his first solo exhibition there in 1952, and won prizes at the Royal Adelaide Exhibition in 1952 and the Cornell Prize, offered by the Contemporary Art Society, in 1953 and 1954.

His recognition soon spread, as he received numerous invitations to exhibit at national, state and regional galleries in the 1950s and '60s. His work was purchased by the Art Gallery of South Australia (1954) and the National Collection (now Artbank) in the late 1960s. His experimental film *Transfiguration* (1965) won an Australian Film Institute award for Best Black

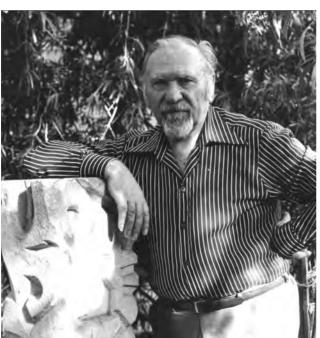


Fig. 1. Ludwik Dutkiewicz in his garden at Kensington Park, Adelaide, c. 1990. (Photo by Graeme Hastwell).

and White Photography in 1966 and was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Engaged by the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide in 1953 as 'sign writer and botanical artist', Ludwik Dutkiewicz was productive both in water colours of the Gardens' living plant collection, none known to have been published, and in line-drawings included in taxonomic research papers and flora handbooks (Barker 2008; Dutkiewicz 2008; see list below).

The life of Ludwik Dutkiewicz is interwoven with his brother's (Dutkiewicz 2006 & unpubl.). Ludwik ventured not only in painting, but also in sculpture, the theatre and film. The wide acclaim for his various artistic pursuits is evidenced in the following bibliography. The list of publications containing his botanical art, not claimed to be complete, is a testament to the productivity of this important Australian botanical illustrator.

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