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ELISABETH CUMMINGS AWARDED AN OAM

31 January 2011 | Painter Elisabeth Cummings was honoured on Australia Day with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Cummings has been exhibiting since 1963. Her OAM follows a series of prizes including the Fleurieu Art Prize, Mosman Art Prize and Portia Geach Portrait Prize.

"It's exciting, but it was a big surprise when I heard," Cummings told the *Macarthur Chronicle*. "I think it's nice that it's an Australian award."

Also recognised in the Australia Day honours list for their contribution to the arts were artists Robert Juniper, Jeffrey Mincham and the late Edna McKenzie, as well as philanthropists including Michael Abbott QC, Sidney Myer and James Sourris.

West Australian sculptor, printmaker and landscape painter Juniper and ceramic artist Mincham were awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for their services to the visual arts. The late McKenzie posthumously received a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Philanthropist Michael Abbott QC was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. Abbott has donated Asian art to the value of approximately \$3.5 million to the Art Gallery of South Australia over the past 34 years. He also currently serves as chairman of AGSA and as board member of numerous arts organisations.

"In some small way I hope my gifts have made people more aware and more appreciative of the art and culture of India and South-East Asia," he said to *The Advertiser*.

Prominent entrepreneurs Sidney Myer and James Sourris received an AM for their philanthropy.

Arts administrators and writers were also honoured for their contribution to the arts.

Dr Gerard Vaughan was awarded an AM for his administration, promotion and development of educational and fundraising programs in his role as director of the National Gallery of Victoria.

Susan McCulloch, writer and co-founder of McCulloch & McCulloch, which publishes McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art, also received an OAM for her services to the arts.

Stephanie Lau

Above: Elisabeth Cummings featured on the cover of Australian Art Collector in 2002.

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