

STURT

80 Years in the Making

Winifred West 1934
by Harold Cazneaux



Winifred West with staff and students 1941

This exhibition draws upon the incredible 80 year legacy of Sturt archives and permanent collection, a valuable record of images and treasures that tell stories of great makers who made the pilgrimage to live, work and teach at Sturt. Here we pay tribute to some of those legendary makers who contributed so much to Sturt and inspired countless others in the process.

This humble creative enclave in the Southern Highlands started with the vision of Winifred West, an inspiring woman who believed in the value of creating in tune with nature, of connecting people to each other and to the community, and of cultivating an appreciation of beauty by learning from master makers. Starting with one room with a few weavers and woodworkers, Winifred soon invited professional potters, textile artists, and metal workers to come to Sturt to share their passion for making with others. Winifred encouraged makers to collaborate, to experiment, to joyfully create with each other in this nurturing community. Hundreds of skilled makers from all over Australia and from around the world came to do residencies, deliver workshops, artists talks, exhibitions or to stay and teach full time for decades.

And so Sturt flourished until now. Sturt is cherished as the most enduring design centre and school for design excellence in Australia. There are too many generous and talented makers who have dedicated their energy and time to Sturt to mention here, but all of them have their fingerprints all over it. They are part of Sturt's vibrant DNA and stand testament to Winifred's bold vision **"...a happy meeting place for people young and old who love beauty and good craftsmanship"** Winifred West 1945



1941-2021



Sturt 1941