

Patricia Mullins

Dromkeen Medal Citation 2012



Patricia Mullins' love of and commitment to art and design began with encouragement from her mother at an early age and was formally recognised after her training at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with a Fellowship of Illustration in 1974. As an author, illustrator, puppet-maker and restorer of rocking and carousel horses, Patricia has expressed her talent in many ways. However, it is for her significant contribution to children's books that she is recognised by the Dromkeen Medal.

Picture books form the mainstay of her output of more than 30 books, many of which have been published internationally and widely translated. Patricia's illustrations and designs have received awards from institutions and organisations ranging from the Children's Book Council of Australia, publisher organisations in Australia and overseas, magazines (including *Horn Book* and *Parents' Choice* – US), the Wilderness Society (Australia) and the Dimensional Illustrators (US).

Patricia works across a number of media and techniques, but perhaps her best loved form is collage with delicate torn and layered tissue paper. Reviewers have noted how her illustrations bring the text alive and engage readers, old and young.



Always keen to explain her work and technique, Patricia's website provides insight into her creative process. Her connection with Dromkeen has spanned the entire 40-year life of the collection. Over this time Patricia has given freely of her time and talent to support young

people in their own endeavours. In 2009 she worked with students in rural Victoria, funded by Arts Victoria's Artists in Schools program. Her corpus of work is tangible evidence of her talent and represents a major contribution to Australian children's literature.

Patricia Mullins is a most worthy recipient of the Dromkeen Medal for 2012.

The National Centre for Children's Book Art, Dromkeen was founded by Courtney and Joyce Oldmeadow in 1973 and became one of the most significant collections of Australian children's book art in the world. In 2012, the Dromkeen Board of Governors, Scholastic Australia transferred trusteeship of the collection to the State Library of Victoria, which will continue to build and exhibit the collection. The Dromkeen Medal, initiated in 1982, is awarded annually to an Australian resident for work providing a significant contribution to the appreciation and development of children's literature in Australia.