

Wentworth Courier, 13 Nov 2013, Jessica Clement

Artist's life celebrated in pictures

TOP PORTRAITS FEATURE IN RETROSPECTIVE

BATHED in sunlight on the deck of her Double Bay home, artist Judy Cassab reclines still and serene as if sitting for one of her own famed portraits.



Picture: JOHN APPEYARD Dual Archibald Prize winner Judy Cassab, 92, at her Double Bay home.

The dual Archibald Prize winner, 93, a trailblazing force in the art world since her arrival in Sydney from Hungary in 1950, has a chance to reflect this weekend when a huge retrospective of her work opens in Woollahra.

Her son, John Seed, acts as a kind of advocate for her since the rigours of age began to take their toll.

He has helped bring together almost 200 Cassab pieces for an exhibition, which opens at Eva Breuer Art Dealer on Saturday.

“It’s the 60th anniversary of her first exhibition in Australia and it just felt like a great time to have some kind of event,” he said.

“Most of the time things like this happen when the person is dead but I thought, why don’t we do it now while Judy can enjoy it?”

The familiar faces of politicians, royalty, actors, judges, entertainers and industry chiefs will hang alongside family portraits.

Among these is a portrait of her grandmother, painted by a 12-year-old Cassab in 1932.

Cassab will bestow several works of her personal collection to the National Portrait Gallery, the State Library and the National Library.

She will also bestow a portrait of art dealer Rex Irwin to Woollahra Council.