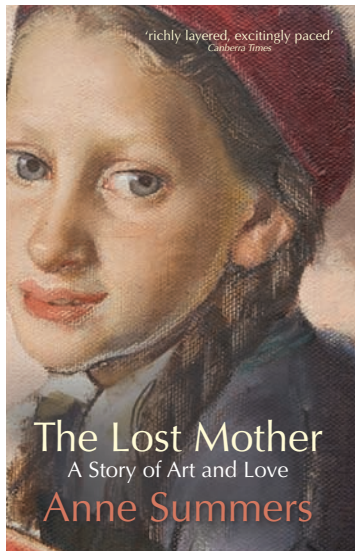


MEDIA RELEASE

Books with spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



THE LOST MOTHER A Story of Art and Love (Updated PB edition)

by Anne Summers

'Richly layered and excitingly paced'

The Canberra Times

'A beautiful book'

The Sunday Age

In a gripping narrative that is part art history, part detective story and part meditation on the relations between mothers and daughters, Anne Summers tells the story of the search for a lost painting of her late mother.

Since the release of the book last year, readers around the country have delighted in Anne's story, often relating closely her reflections on the relationship with her mother. The response has been quite overwhelming – the book has incited many readers to make personal contact with Anne and to seek out and visit the different sites mentioned in the story; "You have introduced the reader to the virtually unknown cultural world of Melbourne in the interwar period" said one reader. Others have been drawn to solve the implicit mysteries of the book and make contact with Anne to provide further leads or snippets of information to assist in her search.

After her mother's death in 2005, Anne Summers inherited a portrait of her mother as a child. Mesmerised by this image, she found herself drawn into the story of how the portrait was painted and eventually found its way into her family. She soon learned that the artist painted another portrait of her mother; this time as the Madonna.

Anne's search for the Madonna painting and the mysterious Russian émigré collector who bought both paintings took her down unexpected paths. Her search soon turned into a parallel quest to rescue Constance Stokes, the artist, from obscurity, and to learn why the collector suddenly abandoned the paintings. Along the way Anne found she must face the truth of the relationship she had with her mother.

In turn hypnotic and moving, *The Lost Mother* is a powerful exploration of art, loss and love. This new edition includes a new Afterword and a listing of sites of interest for those who wish to follow the story around Melbourne.

MUP RRP \$26.99

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01 MAY 2010

Anne Summers will be available
for interview during May.

For more information please
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or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

Anne Summers is the author of *Damned Whores and God's Police*, *Gamble for Power*, *Ducks on the Pond* and *The End of Equality*, among other books. She has edited the landmark American feminist magazine *Ms.* and *Good Weekend* as well as writing for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian Financial Review* and numerous other publications. She has been an advisor to prime ministers Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, chaired the Board of Greenpeace International and been Deputy President of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. She lives in Sydney. Her website is www.annesummers.com.au

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