

Loreto Sister and Professor Emerita Margaret Manion IBVM, AO died on 3rd September. As an internationally renowned medievalist, art historian, curator and teacher she made an enormous contribution to the development of art history.

Margaret Manion began her teaching career at Loreto Abbey, Mary's Mount Ballarat, before continuing her studies in the Arts at the University of Melbourne and Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. On completion of her PhD she lectured at the University of Melbourne, 1972-1978, before her appointment as the Herald Chair of Fine Arts. During her distinguished career Margaret served as Deputy Dean and Acting Dean in the Faculty of Arts, Dean of Research and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (1985-88). She was the first woman to chair the university's Academic Board.

In addition to these academic posts Margaret Manion served two terms as Foreign Advisor to the International Centre of Medieval Art, New York, was a life member, and a trustee, for 15 years, of the National Gallery of Victoria, and an honorary curator of its Early Medieval and Renaissance collection. She was a member of the Council of Adult Education, the Arts Centre Melbourne Trust and the Australia Council.

In 1989 Margaret Manion was awarded the Order of Australia for her contribution to the arts and education; in 2001 she received the Centenary medal and an Honorary doctorate from the University of Melbourne in 2007.

Among Margaret Manion's many scholarly essays, articles and collaborations was the work she did with Vera Vines and Christopher de Hamel to produce the first census of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in Australia and New Zealand.

Manion was an inspiring teacher, a friend to many and is deeply mourned by her religious community, family and colleagues in Australia and beyond.