

KATHLEEN O'CONNOR OF PARIS

by AMANDA CURTIN

ABOUT THE BOOK

What does it mean to live a life in pursuit of art?

In 1906, Kathleen O'Connor left conservative Perth, where her famous father's life had ended in tragedy. She had her sights set on a career in thrilling, bohemian Paris. More than a century later, novelist Amanda Curtin faces her own questions, of life and of art, as she embarks on a journey in Kate's footsteps. Part biography, part travel narrative, this is the story of an artist in a foreign land who, with limited resources and despite the impacts of war and loss, worked and exhibited in Paris for over forty years. Kate's distinctive figure paintings, portraits and still lifes, highly prized today, form an inseparable part of the telling.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amanda Curtin is the author of novels *Elemental* (2013) and *The Sinkings* (2008), and short story collection *Inherited* (2011). Her award-winning short fiction has appeared in *Griffith Review*, *Southerly*, *Island*, *Indigo*, *Westerly*, *Review of Australian Fiction* and several anthologies. She has also worked as a book editor for many years. Amanda lives in Perth with her husband and an opinionated Siamese cat, and works in a backyard studio among magpies, doves and old trees.

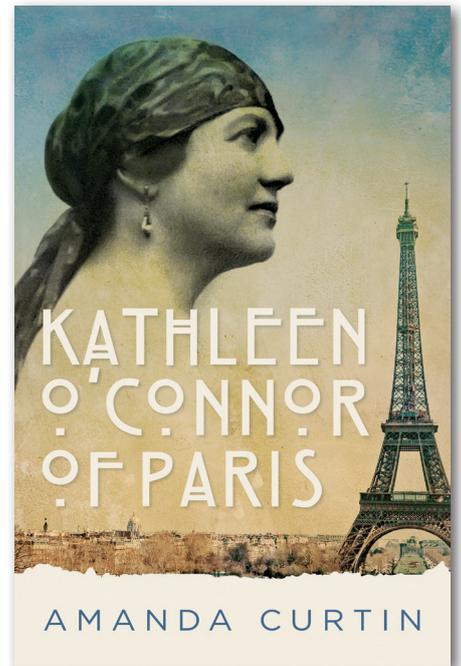


KEY POINTS

- Kathleen O'Connor is the daughter of the engineer C.Y. O'Connor, who worked in New Zealand and Australia. Facing a public outcry against his work on the Goldfields Pipeline, O'Connor took his own life on the shores of Fremantle, Western Australia.
- Though Kathleen O'Connor exhibited successfully in Paris for more than four decades, recognition here was slow. However, O'Connor's works now feature in every major gallery in Australia and have been widely exhibited in New Zealand.
- Amanda Curtin is an award-winning novelist who is best known for *Elemental* and *The Sinkings*. *Elemental* was shortlisted for the 2014 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards.
- Amanda Curtin is the winner of the Patricia Hackett Prize for Best Contribution to *Westerly*, joint winner of the University of Canberra National Short Story Award and winner of the Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Award.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'Only an experienced editor (for two decades Curtin's day job) could understand how to achieve such graceful economy of utterance. Only a born writer ... could make those few words count.' *The Weekend Australian*



Pub. Date	November 2018
ISBN	9781925591644
eMOBI	9781925591668
ePUB	9781925591651
ePDF	9781925591675
RRP	\$34.99 AU \$40.00 NZ \$19.95 US
Genre	Biography
Format	PB, C format
Extent	320 pp (including 8pp colour tip in)



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