

# Shire of Northam ART COLLECTION



## Pemberton Blues II



Artist - Drewfus Gates (1954-.)

Dates - 1988

Winner of the Northam Art Prize 1988.

Drewfus Gates was born in North Wales in 1951 and migrated to Western Australia in 1958.

Although raised in a fundamentalist Christian family he has branched out developing his own spirituality and now embraces the Bahai faith particularly its acceptance of others regardless of their own religious affiliations.

Dr Gates was an exceptional student winning the first prize in the State Maths Talent Quest for both years 11 and 12 before studying at the University of Western Australia and receiving a PhD in Physics.

In addition to his scientific achievements Dr Gates has had a long career as an artist with his wife of 32 years, Chelina. Their first exhibition was in 1983 and has been their primary source of income ever since.

In 2001 Dr Gates suffered a disastrous fire accident whilst working in the remote Aboriginal community of the Patjarr in the Gibson Desert.

Since 1982 Drewfus has become one of W.A.'s best known artists (having won over 150 Art Awards) mostly for landscapes and seascapes suffused with light and colour, although he still keeps his other interests alive. It is his personal ambition that his paintings move people in the way that the greatest music can. He is also possibly W.A.'s foremost portrait painter, having been commissioned to paint official portraits of numerous Australians, including: Australian High Court and Supreme Court Judges, State Chief Justices, Professors, Governors, Sporting Identities, School Principals, and prominent Business People. He has also been 6 times a finalist in the biennial Moran National Portrait Prize (the World's richest portrait prize), the only West Australian to have done so.

Source: TALK: Friends of the UWA Library Speaker Dr. Drewfus Gates : The Adventure of Consciousness - a personal journey, Tue, 08 Apr 2014