

## A Margaret Tait Chronology

- 1918 11th November, born Margaret Caroline Tait, Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland. Parents Charles Tait (d.1967) and Mary Isbister Tait (d.1964), brothers Maxwell (1917-1979), William Isbister (1920- ), John A.S. (1922-1990), Harald I. (1924-1958)
- Family home in Broad Street, Kirkwall
- 1923-1926 Kirkwall primary school
- 1924-1954 "Permanent" address, Buttquoy House, Kirkwall, re school years, university, war years, post war
- 1926-1934 Esdaile School, Edinburgh
- 1930's Taking photographs of family and friends and places, Scapa, Eynhallow, Skail, Ingsay, Redbanks, Longhope, Skara Brae, Yesnaby, Eday, Kirkwall
- 1935 Experiments with different exposure times for several photographs (interiors, two self portraits)
- 1936 Studies medicine Edinburgh University. Staying at 59 North Castle Street, Blacket Place, Bank Street, Cambridge Street
- 1941 Qualified in medicine, MB.CH.B, at Edinburgh University
- 1943 BSc, Edinburgh University
- 1943 Joins the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), serves in UK
- 1943-1945 Serves in India. Visits Kashmir, Agra, Delhi
- 1945 Serves in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Subsequently compiles photo album of visits to Kashmir, Agra, Delhi, Kandy
- 1945-1946 Serves in Johore, Malaya, visiting Singapore
- 1946 26th March sailed for home from Singapore on the "Winchester Castle"
- April on Orkney
- Visits Adelaide Petersen, Stavanger, Norway
- Working in Bristol (hospital duties)
- To Edinburgh, living at Ormidale Terrace, no. 46 where "I was an ex--service H.P. [House Physician] at "Sick Kids" Royal Hospital for Sick Children"
- 1947 Summer holiday in Paris, and then Italy visiting Florence, Assisi, Perugia, Venice, Como, Milan
- 1948 Visits Lake District
- Lives in London staying at at 36 Parliament Hill NW3 while "job--hunting"
- Working in Shoreditch, living at 93 Shepherdess Walk
- In the USA. Visits Washington DC (with parents)
- July home on Orkney
- 1948-49 Locums in South of England including spell as assistant to uncle's practice, Windlesham, Surrey
- Living at Holly Cottage, School Road, Windlesham

- 1949 July/August locum in Pontrhydyfen, Glamorgan
- 1950 April returns to Perugia. Studies at Universita Italiana per Stranieri
- 1950-52 Studied film at Centro di Cinematographia, Rome, Italy
- 1953 Founds Ancona Films with Peter Hollander, Rome, Italy
- 1954 Tenant at 91 Rose Street, Edinburgh (until 1973), The Rose Street Film Festival, August
- 1954–62 Locums UK
- 1955 August, 2nd Rose Street Film Festival, Edinburgh. Films screened Calypso, A Portrait of Ga, Happy Bees, Orquil Burn, The Leaden Echo and the Golden Echo, by Margaret Tait, Sometimes a Newspaper, and Shapes, by Peter Hollander, Affisioni (Posters) by Luigi Bazzoni and Mario Fenelli and, Dimitri Works in Black Wax.
- 1960's Living in Edinburgh, East Sutherland, Kirkwall
- 1964 A Poet In New York, sequence of pictures based on Lorca's poem exhibited as a small independent show at 91 Rose Street, during the Edinburgh Festival
- 1965 Living at Slow Bend, Helmsdale, Sutherland (until 1973)
- 1968 Living at Buttquoy House (until 1975)
- Marries Alex Pirie, 9th December
- 1970 Retrospective at the Edinburgh International Film Festival
- 1975 Moves to Aith, Sandwick, Orkney
- Work exhibited at the First Festival of Independent British Cinema, February, Bristol
- Mike Leggett and Annabel Nicholson visits Orkney, September, (Buttquoy House).
- 1977 Tour of South West England organised by Mike Leggett. Screening at London Film Makers Co-op
- 1979 Poet With a Camera, Spectrum, BBC Scotland arts series, 30 minute programme about her work
- Work screened at Third International Festival of Avant -Garde Film, London
- Late 1970's to 1990's a small number of showings at the Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney
- Aerial, Colour Poems, Place of Work, Tailpiece, enter distribution with London Film Makers Co-op (listed in Distribution Supplement no.3)
- 1982 Work screened at 3rd International Festival of Film and Television in the Celtic Countries, Wexford, Ireland
- 1983 Margaret Tait; Film Maker, television documentary directed by Margaret Williams televised with Where I am Is Here, Channel Four Television
- 1984 March - 1999 Orquil Studio. A place of work
- 1987 Films By Margaret Tait, compilation, transmitted on The Eleventh Hour by Channel Four Television, includes Hugh MacDiarmid – A Portrait, A Portrait fo Ga, Colour Poems, and Aspects of Kirkwall; Some Changes
- 1994 Living at Cruan, Firth, Orkney
- 1995 Ute Aurand visits Orkney, July

- 1998 Hugh MacDiarmid A Portrait, and Ariel, included in the film programme Film Poems, National Film Theatre, London, which subsequently tours
- 1999 16th April dies at home, Firth, Orkney
- 4th July A Tribute To Margaret Tait, film programme, Lux Cinema, London
- 2000 26th April Visionary Histories: Maya Deren, Marie Menken, Margaret Tait, film programme, Lux Cinema, London
- May. Alex Pirie deposits films and negatives with the Scottish Screen Archive.
- October, retrospective with three programmes of short films, Places of Work, Land Makar, Film Poems, and Blue Black Permanent, National Film Theatre, London
- 2001 Garden Pieces, included in a film touring programme taking the name Garden Pieces

Compiled by Peter Todd with thanks to Alex Pirie. November, 2002.

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