



## **Guy Maestri**

Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio

The Friends Gallery

**Friday 17 March – Sunday 30 July**

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During 2016 Sydney-based artist Guy Maestri spent time in the Gallery's Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residency Studio. The aim of the residency was to commence the development of a body of work for a solo exhibition in the Friends Gallery in March 2017.

The artist said, "I originally intended to observe and respond to the local landscape and fauna as the focus of my residency at the Gallery. However, as I settled into the studio and absorbed myself into the residency, I realised what a privilege it was to have such intimate access to Margaret Olley's world via the exhibition of Olley's work and the re-creation of her Duxford Street home studio.

Studying Margaret's paintings, reading her thoughts about art and life and having access to the actual objects that she painted from (her own things) made me realise what a masterful painter she was. It made me fall in love with painting again, for the pure joy of it. To spend time looking at, and painting from life, the objects I know so well from Margaret's paintings, and to know that Margaret herself had spent time quietly rendering those same objects was again, a privilege. It unexpectedly redirected my focus for my residency, to something more intimate and more about personal objects, and of course, about the love of painting."

Guy Maestri is represented by Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane and Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney.

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**Guy Maestri in the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio**

Photo: Ingrid Hedgcock