



## Portraits: Margaret Olley

### The Margaret Olley Art Centre

Friday 12 May – Sunday 10 September

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“Because I have a face like a pudding and it’s easy to draw.”

This was Margaret Olley’s humorous response, when asked by friend and biographer Christine France, why, in her opinion, she was such a popular portrait subject for fellow artists.

Margaret Olley remains the most painted face in Australian art history. As a fledgling artist at the age of 25, Olley sat for friend and fellow artist William Dobell. His portrait *Margaret Olley* 1948 won the Archibald Prize, hurtling a shy Olley into a media frenzy. More than six decades later, Olley was again the subject of an Archibald Prize winning portrait by Ben Quilty, *Margaret Olley* 2011.

Olley’s remarkable artistic career is bookended by these iconic portraits.

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**William Dobell** (Australia; England, b.1899, d.1970)

*Margaret Olley* 1948

oil on hardboard, 114.3 × 85.7cm

Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1949

© William Dobell/Licensed by Viscopy, 2016

Photo: AGNSW



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This outstanding exhibition of portraits of Olley by her artist friends, and self-portraits, is an exploration of Olley's extraordinary life, spirited character and her enduring friendships with some of the most significant figures in Australian art. *Portraits: Margaret Olley* includes work by Margaret Olley, William Dobell, Russell Drysdale, Donald Friend, Ian Fairweather, Judy Cassab, Jeffrey Smart, Ben Quilty, Danelle Bergstrom, Nicholas Harding and more.

Never before assembled, *Portraits* brings together important works via loans from private and public collections including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Maitland Regional Gallery and the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre.

The exhibition will be complemented by an engaging schedule of activities and events. For details visit the Gallery website in 2017.

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**Ben Quilty** (Australia, b.1973)

*Margaret Olley* 2011

oil on linen, 170 × 150cm

Art Gallery of New South Wales, on loan from the artist

© Ben Quilty

Photo: AGNSW