



## **Maria Kontis**

Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio  
The Friends Gallery

**Friday 8 March – Sunday 14 July 2019**

---

Melbourne-based artist Maria Kontis spent one month working in the Gallery's Artist-in-Residence Studio undertaking research and concept development for her solo exhibition in the Friends Gallery.

"During my residency at the Nancy Fairfax Studio I immersed myself in the history, society and culture of Murwillumbah and its surrounding communities. It was my hope to develop a material, affective and drawn response to life in the area. Initially I focused on the photographs of the community. I spent many hours looking at thousands of photographs in the Tweed Regional Museum Collection Store. But I wanted to do more than look at photographs. I wanted to draw the 'photo-graph' of the community across multiple planes and from multiple viewpoints. I gathered information and ideas from local newspapers and various books and newsletters published by the Tweed Regional Museum, the Tweed Shire Council and the Historical Societies of Murwillumbah, Uki and Tweed Heads, attended council meetings, met with local groups, visited exhibitions, observed ongoing life in the community, talked with people and listened to their stories. These encounters are vital to the development of my project. In a sense, they are my project."

Maria Kontis

Maria Kontis is represented by Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney.

---

Maria Kontis at work in her studio