



Kate Rohde

Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio
The Friends Gallery

Friday 19 July – Sunday 1 December 2019

Melbourne-based artist Kate Rohde was the Gallery's Artist-in-Residence in September 2018.

During my residency I was particularly interested in two aspects of the region and of the Gallery itself: one being the dramatic landscape of the Northern Rivers region, and the second the maximal re-creation of Margaret Olley's home studio in the Gallery.

The vista from the studio looks directly to the dramatic peak of Wollumbin/Mt Warning and imagining the dramatic geological history of the area is fascinating to me. I loved to watch the sunset over the mountain and the changing weather. As a keen stargazer it was a great pleasure to spot the visible planets and observe their nightly transit across the sky.

The other fascination was looking through the Margaret Olley home studio re-creation, exploring the detail of the vast accretions of ephemera built up over decades. The layering of items brought to mind some kind of archaeological site.

My exhibition seeks to capture these two elements – to reconcile the seemingly timeless story and slow evolution of the landscape with the layering of a personal history. Combining my interest in decorative arts, in particular vessels, textiles and wallpaper prints, I will create an immersive installation that distils my residency experience.

Kate Rohde, 2019

Kate Rohde in her studio
Photo: Tobias Titz