Media Release



First artist in residence announced

Celebrated sculptor Alex Seton to be based in Artist in Residence Studio

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Renowned sculptor Alex Seton will be the first artist in residence at a studio constructed as part of the new Margaret Olley Arts Centre (MOAC) at Tweed Regional Gallery.

The Gallery has announced the awarded 36-year-old artist will be based at the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence (AIR) Studio from 17 – 31 March, coinciding with the official opening of the MOAC in March.

Benefactor Tim Fairfax AM - whose contribution will support an ongoing AIR Studio program encouraging creative engagement between artist, community and place - named the studio in honour of his mother.

As an element of the MOAC, the AIR program will further acknowledge Margaret Olley's legacy of mentorship and patronage, supporting many artists through personal mentorship and professional assistance.

"The Nancy Fairfax AIR Studio program will enable and encourage a variety of artists to stimulate their practice in a creative environment," Gallery Director Susi Mudiman said.

"The Gallery will administer and promote a program which includes two funded residencies each year. The artwork resulting from these residences will be included in the Gallery's exhibition program.

"Artists will also be able to apply to use the studio on a fee-paying basis and income generated through this program will feed into the Gallery's artistic programs."

Seton said he looked forward to his residency to add a new performance element to his practices, as he creates works for his exhibition Replicator, on display at the Gallery from 21 March – 1 June 2014.

During the first two weeks of the exhibition, members of the public are invited to donate objects which Seton will recreate as carvings of marble and marble composite, using an old pantograph machine.

"I'm interested in activating redundant technologies as an expression of how far we have come in this digital mechanical age, and of how much we have forgotten," he said.

For more information visit http://artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/

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