



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARGARET OLLEY

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has paid tribute to painter Margaret Olley who died at her Sydney home overnight.

Mr O'Farrell said the Lismore born artist was an icon in the Australian Arts community.

"Margaret Olley was much loved for her still-life and interiors paintings and she was an inspiration who continued to paint voraciously until her final days," Mr O'Farrell said.

"At this year's Archibald announcement she was in fine form, full of life, full of ideas and she took the opportunity to lobby a new Premier about the need to support the Arts.

"She found fascination with the details of everyday life and ordinary subjects that flew in the face of trends and changing movements.

"Her association with some of the nation's greatest artists including William Dobell and Russell Drysdale also made her a prolific subject of portraiture in her own right.

"Margaret Olley was a supporter of emerging artists and a generous donor who gave many works to galleries including the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the Newcastle Region Art Gallery.

"It was in Newcastle that she bought her first home and she continued to advocate for the need for the arts to be supported in the region.

"Margaret Olley was a unique artist and a unique woman whose death is a great loss to our State," Mr O'Farrell said.