

MEDIA RELEASE

2nd of August 2011

Margaret Olley's legacy to continue



A new judge for the National Trust's Harper's Mansion Art Prize has been announced following the sad passing of National Trust Living Treasure and iconic Australian artist Margaret Olley.

Margaret was to be the judge of the annual prize, in its first year, honouring her long relationship and support for the National Trust.

Barry Humphries & Margaret Olley at the opening of the Portia Geach Memorial Award in 2008 at the S.H. Ervin Gallery.

But in light of her death last week her friends Barry Pearce and Philip Bacon will now decide the winner.

The recipient of the \$5000 will be announced at a special luncheon in the Southern Highlands on Friday the 4th of November.

National Trust (NSW) President Mr Ian Carroll said he is saddened by the passing of the 88 year old but pleased her legacy and strong pride for Australian art will continue.

"When Margaret Olley agreed in June to judge the Trust's still life competition with Barry Pearce, we knew that her extraordinary vision brought a special dimension to the competition."

"Drawing from Margaret's indomitable spirit, we are very proud to announce that this competition will proceed as envisaged and will now be judged by Barry Pearce and Philip Bacon, representing Margaret Olley's very special artistic vision" Mr Carroll said.

Highly regarded in the art world, Barry Pearce is preparing a new book on the work of Margaret Olley to be released next year, while Philip Bacon had been the artist's dealer for forty years.

Together, they will bring a perfect understanding of her sense of the special place of still life in her painting practice and how it might be fostered within the broader community of Australian artists.

Details of the National Trust's Harper's Mansion Art Prize are available at:

www.harpersmansion.com.au/artprize

Where: Gibraltar Hotel, Bowral

When: Friday 4th of November

Cost: \$120 members; \$130 non-members

Bookings essential: Phone (02) 4861 1388 or email to info@harpersmansion.com.au

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