



I always travelled with a sketch book...

Margaret Olley

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CHRISTINE FRANCE

The art of Margaret Olley is the art of deliberate choices. The same could be said of Olley herself, who dispels all theories of Australia's isolation, repression of women and fashion following. (...)she persists in painting that which is around her; one reason for this is loathing of pretence, of adopting ways of thinking that are not true to the reality of self.

Christine France, 2002, Margaret Olley, Craftsman House, Sydney

Respected art historian Christine France wrote the acclaimed 1990 monograph *Margaret Olley* and was curator of S.H. Ervin Gallery's survey exhibition of Olley in the same year. In 1996 France was a contributing author to the Art Gallery of New South Wales' Margaret Olley exhibition. France has published and organised exhibitions featuring a number of significant Australian artists, including Jean Bellette, Janet Dawson, Marea Gazzard, Justin O'Brien and the Merioola group of artists. Christine France has travelled with Olley on many occasions and shares her observations & experiences for the final day of Margaret Olley, *Life's Journey* exhibition.