



TWEED RIVER ART GALLERY - MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

📍 MURWILLUMBAH

- 👤 Client Name: Tweed Shire Council
- 📅 Status: Completed March 2014
- 👤 Design & Construct
- 💰 Value: \$2.9m + GST
- 📋 Category: Entertainment/Community & Infrastructure

Margaret Olley was a “rock star” of the art world and a totally unique individual. She lived as she lived. The brief to relive her home was never going to be a normal building project.

Many of the people who knew her well and who regularly visited her home have commented that they expect to see her walking around the rooms. They even contain her scent. They contain her spirit. There is no other display like this in Australia and is set to become a national and international cultural attraction.

Project Details

The Tweed River Art Gallery (TRAG) was some of “the most famous rooms in Australian art”, by the renown Australian artist, Margaret Olley as part of her estate. Margaret Olley was one of the most significant and prolific artists of a generation, and as she grew up in the region, she bestowed TRAG the honour of relocating and recreating the “Hat Factory”, “Yellow Room” and kitchen of her Paddington (Sydney) home.

The project was totally unique in that approximately 75,000 items were lovingly and carefully catalogued, removed and relocated to Murwillumbah. They were then placed in the exact same location and way to create and precise reproduction at new Margaret Olley Art Centre.

Works Undertaken

Some of the key components of this project were:

- The windows, doors, rugs, crockery, cutlery, paint brushes and even cigarette butts were as they were when she passed away
- Some of the pieces were literally held together with only a coat of paint. Even spider webs were removed and transported
- Incomplete paintings are on her easels as they were
- The Art Centre was built inside a purposely designed and built extension to TRAG, and includes an “Artist In Residence” retreat, where visiting artists can harness creativity and gain inspiration



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