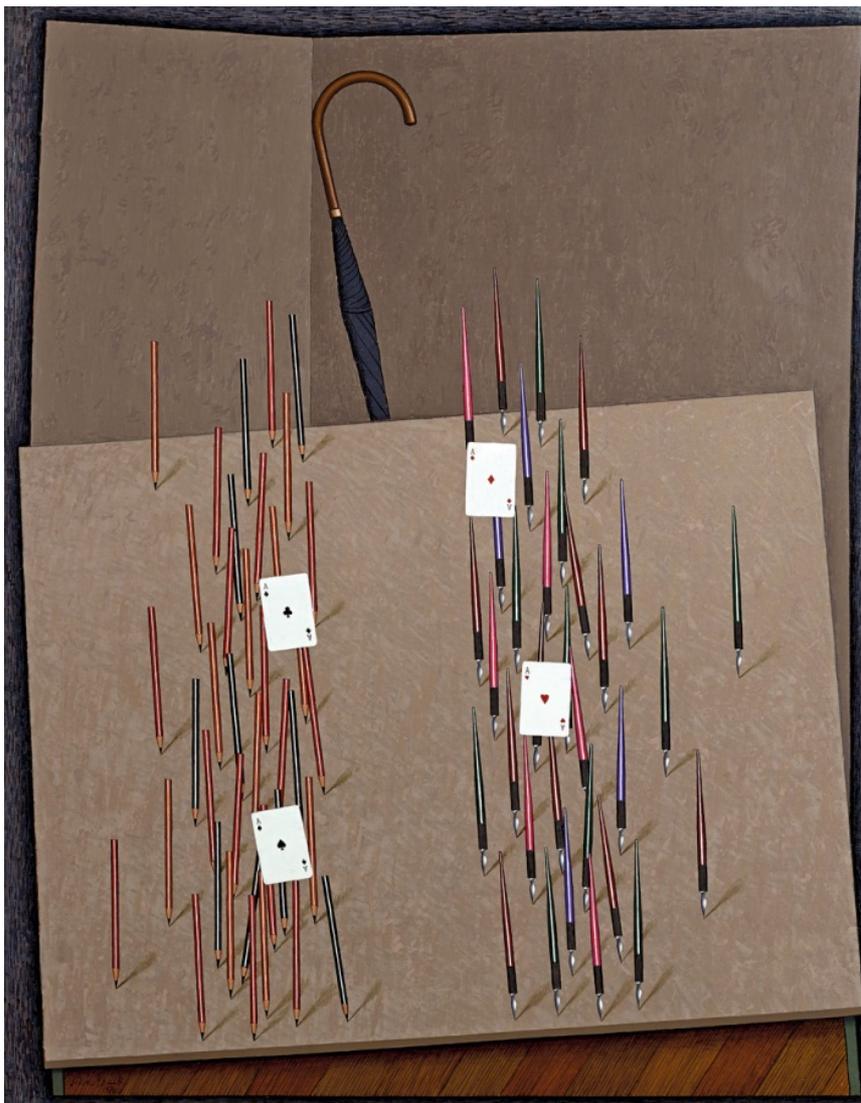


Melbourne 30 April 2014

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Important Australian Art Auction in Sydney 13 May 2014



John Brack 1920-1999, *Confrontation* 1978. Estimate \$400,000-600,000

An exceptional collection of Important Australian Art including early colonial and contemporary paintings, works on paper and sculpture will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia on 13 May 2014 in Sydney. The auction features 101 lots with a combined pre-sale estimate of \$4.9 million to \$6.6 million. The sale features masterpieces by colonial artist Joseph Lycett through to contemporary artists Charles Blackman, John Brack, Sidney Nolan and Jeffrey Smart.

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John Brack's *Confrontation* 1978 (estimate \$400,000-600,000, lot 42, pictured previous) is offered at the forthcoming sale by a Sydney institution. One of Australia's most important artists who focused on the human condition, Brack was at the forefront of Australian art for over four decades, producing iconic Australian images such as the celebrated *Collins St., 5p.m.* (1955) and *The Bar* (1954) (sold by Sotheby's Australia in April 2006 for \$3.13 million). Upon returning from his travels to Europe in 1973, Brack's iconography shifted from the human figure to inanimate objects, with these complex arrangements of still life elements – postcards, cutlery, umbrellas and walking sticks – culminating in the playing card, pen and pencil 'battlefields' of 1978-1986. In these works Brack explores the tragic endlessness of armed, violent conflict in the field of human affairs. Brack's pencil on paper *Reading the Reader's Digest* (1955) (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 22) is also offered from the Collection of John Bryson AM the highly regarding author who *Evil Angels*. Bryson studied under Brack and acquired the work in 1955. It has not previously been reproduced.

The remarkable *Morning on the Beach* (circa 1909-1911) (estimate \$120,000-140,000, lot 31) is a fine example of E. Phillips Fox's impressionist paintings and a striking highlight of the sale. Settling in Paris in 1905 until 1913 with his wife and artist, Ethel Carrick, the painting displays summers spent in seaside towns. The present work was highly regarded by the widowed Carrick, being retained by her until included in the posthumous exhibition and sale of her late husband's works that she staged in Melbourne in 1925.

Arthur Streeton's *Palaces in Sunlight* (1908) (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 29) is offered for the first time in over a century having formed part of the renowned collection of Australian art assembled by Melbourne's Abrahams family. The painting was acquired by Mrs Laurence Abrahams and has remained in the family until the present time. Painted in the year Streeton married and travelled to Venice for his honeymoon, the painting depicts the Grand Canal looking south from its widest point.

From the Estate of the Late Dr Jan Altmann is Charles Blackman's *The Garden of the White Cat* (1971) (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 26). From his three famed *White Cat's Garden* paintings, Blackman only selected the ill-fated *White Cat's Garden at Evening* for translation into the medium of tapestry, producing the current work. The original painting was destroyed in a house fire in Sydney. Blackman had a total of six tapestries woven at the Manufactura de Tapeçarias de Portalegre, a Portuguese Workshop which also undertook commissions for John Olsen and Arthur Boyd during this period.

'Sotheby's Australia maintains its commitment to sourcing and offering only the finest examples of paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Australia's most significant historical, modern and contemporary practitioners,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'This commitment provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to engage with and potentially acquire works for an existing or newly established collection.'

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian Art
Auction in Sydney, 13 May 2014, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Exhibition in Melbourne
1-4 May 2014, 10 am to 5 pm
Level 9, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney
8-13 May 2014, 10 am to 5 pm
30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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