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John Keats 03 9508 9900
John.Keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Sarah Carroll 03 8416 5999
SCarroll@3dm.com.au

Important Australian & International Art



Brett Whiteley 1939-1992, *Washing the Salt Off II* 1984. Estimate \$800,000-1,000,000

Sotheby's Australia's 25 November sale of Important Australian & International Art features 72 works of historical, modern and contemporary paintings, drawings prints and sculptures. The sale follows the success of Sotheby's Australia's August auction, which established six new auction records. It is anticipated that the forthcoming auction will generate strong interest due to the number of significant paintings being offered to the market for the first time in many decades.

Jeffrey Smart features prominently in the auction with a selection of seven major works that form a representative overview of the artist's distinct style. *Camping at Second Valley* 1944 (estimate \$12,000-18,000, lot 52A) is complimented by *Study for Prudhoe Bay Landscape* (1974) (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 45) and *Study for Satellite Receiver* (1974) (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 46) that have been consigned from the collection of the distinguished international Australian Frank Rickwood OBE, a friend of the artist and well known oil industry giant. In addition to these works, Sotheby's Australia will auction *T.S. Eugenides, Piraeus* (1970-1971) (estimate \$400,000-600,000, lot 12), a homage to T.S. Eliot and a painting that has never previously been offered for auction.

Smart's *The Four Closed Shops* (1982) (estimate \$350,000-450,000, lot 7) forms part of a fine collection of modern paintings, sculptures and works on paper assembled in Melbourne during the past 50 years that includes examples by Arthur Boyd, Inge King, Justin O'Brien, Lloyd Rees, Bridget Riley and Danila Vassilieff.

Hans Heysen's *Bushfire, Hahndorf, South Australia* (1912) (estimate \$200,000-250,000, lot 26) conveys the terror and immense destruction caused by bushfires in Australia and will be a poignant highlight of the sale, representing the devastation experience in South Australia in the early twentieth century. Also of historical significance is a selection of several rare Australian Impressionist works by Charles Conder, Tom Roberts, and Arthur Streeton, including material from *The 9 by 5 Impression Exhibition* that revolutionised Australian Art during the late nineteenth century. Other Australian artists to feature in the sale include Grace Cossington-Smith, Brett Whiteley and Fred Williams. *Washing the Salt Off II* 1984 (estimate \$800,000-1,000,000) by Brett Whiteley is a spectacular example of Whiteley's observation of Australian beach culture in the 1980s.

Whilst every work of art tells a story, perhaps none quite like that of Rupert Bunny's *Au Soleil (Girl in Sunlight)* (1913) (estimate \$200,000-300,000, lot 20). The painting was acquired in 1953 by Albert James Watt and stolen in 1991 from his Blairgowrie home. In 2010 it was recovered and returned to Mr Watt's executors after being hidden from the public for nearly 20 years.

'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be exhibiting and auctioning an exceptional selection of major Australian & International works of art,' says Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'Our November sale represents a unique opportunity to view, appreciate and acquire outstanding examples by our leading historical, modern and contemporary practitioners.'

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art
Auction in Sydney, 25 November 2014, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, Treasury Room
117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

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