![Sotheby's Australia logo]

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Melbourne 4 November 2015

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

Boyd Masterpiece for Auction
Important Australian Art, Auction in Sydney 24 November 2015

ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999, *Sleeping Bride* (1957-1958). Estimate $1,000,000-1,200,000

TIGHTLY HELD in the same collection for almost half a century, Arthur Boyd's *Sleeping Bride* (1957-1958) (estimate $1,000,000-1,200,000 lot 17, pictured) is anticipated to generate strong interest at Sotheby's Australia's auction of *Important Australian Art* to be held in Sydney on 24 November 2015. The painting forms part of Boyd's extraordinary 'Love, Marriage and Death of a Half-Caste' series, whose themes were later extended as the 'Bride' series. Sotheby's Australia established the current auction record for the artist in August 2012 with *Bride Running Away* (1957) achieving $1,680,000 and the previous artist record was also held by Sotheby's Australia with the sale of *Frightened Bridegroom* (1958) for $1,200,000 in August 2011, both paintings from this renowned series.

The 'Bride' series was recently celebrated in Heide Museum of Modern Art's exhibition *Arthur Boyd: Brides* that assembled 50 paintings and works on paper and proved as equally astonishing today as when they were first exhibited.

Arthur Boyd's inspiration for the 'Bride' series was his visit to Alice Springs in 1951, with his first close and extended encounter with the Central Australian desert and with the socio-economic degradation of the Indigenous Australians. Boyd is noted as saying 'I had, prior to my trip, only seen one Aboriginal, a chap around Melbourne who played a gumleaf ... I was quite unprepared for the Simpson Desert and seeing people living like that ... My contact with Aborigines was not close at all, but was close enough to know that it wasn't right.'

While the catalyst for the painting *Sleeping Bride* is from Boyd's Central Australian trip, the whole seduction-rejection story is played out against a landscape background of undulating and thickly wooded hills that clearly owe something to Boyd's slightly earlier Berwick and Murrumbeena compositions.

'Sotheby's Australia has achieved world record prices for Arthur Boyd for images that articulate the artists deep concern for the social, political and psychological complexities that faced Indigenous Australians during the 1950s' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. '*Sleeping Bride* is one of the most tender, gentle and ethereal of the series and bears the remarkable provenance of being originally owned by John Perceval, another of Australia's most significant artists of the twentieth century and brother-in-law of Arthur Boyd.'

AT A GLANCE

ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999
Sleeping Bride (1957-1958)
oil and tempera on canvas on composition board
91.5 x 122 cm
Estimate $1,000,000-1,200,000

Important Australian Art
Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 24 November 2015, 6.30 pm
Total estimate $7,635,000 to $9,985,000 | Total lots 94

Exhibition in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 11-15 November, 10 am to 5 pm
Exhibition in Sydney, 30 Queen Street, Woollahra, 19-24 November, 10 am to 5 pm

---

For More News on Sotheby's Australia

VISIT sothebysaustralia.com.au/articles/press
FOLLOW twitter.com/sothebysAUST
JOIN facebook.com/sothebysaustralia