

Melbourne 19 November 2015

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

End of Year Surge for Australian Art

Important Australian Art | Auction in Sydney 24 November 2015



FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982, *Trees and Hillside* 1964. Estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000

With an estimate range of \$7.6 to \$10 million, the auction of Important Australian Art on 24 November is the highest value end of year sale held by Sotheby's Australia since 2009, and includes two works with estimates of \$1-1.2 million. Comprising 94 works of historical, modern and contemporary paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures, with many being offered for the first time in many decades, the sale is anticipated to generate strong interest.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Not since 2009 has our November auction included such valuable and significant works of art and the sale provides an outstanding opportunity for people to view, appreciate and acquire exceptional Australian art.'

MILLION DOLLAR AUSTRALIAN PAINTINGS

Two impressive paintings by Australia's modern masters Arthur Boyd and Fred Williams are anticipated to exceed \$1 million. Both works have been 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) 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.



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

Fred Williams's *Trees and Hillsides* 1964 (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000 lot 15, pictured previous) is a landmark work which signalled a new development in the artist's iconography. A companion work *Hillside* 1964 was sold at Sotheby's Australia in May 2007, setting the then artist auction record of \$1.8 million.

COLONIAL WINNER

In October 1859 Alexander Schramm entered *Bush Visitors* 1859 (estimate \$500,000-700,000, lot 31) in the *South Australian Art Union Exhibition* which was devoted to local artists – after some competition controversy, *Bush Visitors* was awarded first prize. Schramm remains one of the rarest of all Australian colonial artists of the 19th century, with examples seldom appearing on the market. This is only the fourth major painting by the artist to appear at auction in the past four decades and only nine oils are recorded in public collections.



ALEXANDER SCHRAMM 1813-1864, *Bush Visitors* (1859). Estimate \$500,000-700,000

AUSTRALIAN IMPRESSIONISM

Painted in 1907, Arthur Streeton's *St Kilda Pier* (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 28, pictured) is a highly impressionistic composition which perfectly captures the sunlight and breezy scene of ocean, shoreline and sailing boats, together with the men, women and children as they promenade on the pier. Formerly in the collection of Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer, *St Kilda Pier* is a unique image in Streeton's career and has not been seen in public for almost half a century.



ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943, *St Kilda Pier* (1907). Estimate \$50,000-70,000

Rupert Bunny's exquisite *Hair Drying* (circa 1908) (estimate \$280,000-380,000, lot 29, pictured) belongs to the artist's most highly acclaimed and revered group of paintings that depict women engaged in various leisurely pastimes. In his renowned compositions, collectively titled 'Days of Nights of August', his women pose in summer sunshine or balmy evening, engaged in idle conversation, listening to music, in complete emotional and intellectual repose, or suspension. *Hair Drying* remains one of Bunny's most significant paintings from this series remaining in private hands.



RUPERT BUNNY 1867-1947, *Hair Drying* (circa 1908). Estimate \$280,000-380,000

HEALTHY VIRILE MODERNISM

Once thought lost and possibly destroyed, a powerful and evocative wood sculpture by Rayner Hoff has re-emerged after almost 80 years. *Pacific Beach* (circa 1930-1932) (estimate \$25,000-35,000, lot 1, pictured) exemplifies the relationship between health, exercise, sexuality and nationalism. The central motif is of bronzed and rippled male and female swimmers, flanked by a male surfer and surrounded by men, women and children.



RAYNER HOFF 1894-1937, *Pacific Beach* (circa 1930-1932). Estimate \$25,000-35,000

EUROPEAN & ASIAN FUSION

Ian Fairweather's surviving Chinese subjects are keenly sought by private collectors and public institutions. An intriguing precursor to the filled, flat friezes of his later Australian pictures, *Sampans at the Water Gate, Huchow* (1936) (estimate \$200,000-250,000, lot 14, pictured) is an exceptional example of the work of an extraordinary artist. Fairweather's art is floats between Impressionism and Modernism, between European and Asian sensibilities, between Slade School draftsmanship and Chinese calligraphy.



IAN FAIRWEATHER 1891-1974, *Sampans at the Water Gate, Huchow* (1936). Estimate \$200,000-250,000

WHITELEY'S WINDOW ON NEW YORK

In 1967 Brett Whiteley won a Harkness Fellowship Scholarship to study and work in New York where he met other artists and musicians. *New York 3* (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 21, pictured following) was drawn from Whiteley's window of the Chelsea Hotel, where he recorded a unique aspect of the Manhattan skyline. The work was included in Whiteley's breakthrough 1968 solo exhibition at the Marlborough-Gerson Gallery which propelled his international reputation.

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIA

In April 2015 Sotheby's Australia established Lin Onus's auction record of \$512,400 with *Frogs on Waterlilies*. A comparable work, *Guyi Bulgabula (Fish and Lily)* (1992) (estimate 180,000, 220,000, lot 18, pictured) is a compelling synthesis of the visual and conceptual, of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia.

AT A GLANCE

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 Sydney, 30 & 34 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



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992, *New York 3* (1968).
Estimate \$50,000-70,000



LIN ONUS 1948-1996, *Guyi Bulgabula (Fish and Lily)* (1992). Estimate \$180,000-220,000

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

Images are available upon request

All catalogues are available online at sothebysaustralia.com.au