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

Collectors' Masterpieces for Auction

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art + Important Australian & International Art | Auctions in Sydney 10 & 11 May 2016



Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, *River-Bank* 1964. Estimate \$600,000-900,000

Strong buyer interest is anticipated at Sotheby's Australia's May art sale featuring *The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art* and *Important Australian & International Art* to be held at the InterContinental Sydney on 10 and 11 May. With 195 works of art on offer, the total sales estimate is \$10.4 million to \$14.2 million, the most valuable collection of works for auction by Sotheby's Australia since August 2007.

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art is one of most comprehensive collections of Australian Art to be auctioned in recent years. Comprising 120 lots, the sale on 10 May includes major examples by Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman, Donald Friend, Sidney Nolan, Jeffrey Smart and Fred Williams. Recently Denis Savill celebrated his 75th birthday and announced his retirement.

A particular highlight is Sidney Nolan's *River-Bank* 1964 (estimate \$600,000-900,000, lot 40, pictured). The painting belongs to a group of large-scale compositions of Ned Kelly that Nolan produced between October and December 1964 and remains one of the most satisfying and lyrical images of the outlaw firmly located within the Australian landscape that the artist produced.

The name Savill is inextricably linked with the history of traditional, modern and contemporary Australian Art. For 35 years, Savill Galleries has specialised in buying and selling major Australian paintings. Denis Savill's extensive knowledge of and expertise in the art market has made him one of the most respected and well-known art dealers in the country. Savill Galleries has hosted over 100 catalogued exhibitions, including a variety of solo and survey exhibitions, as well as numerous mixed artist shows and events.

The *Important Australian & International Art* auction on 11 May presents a collection of extraordinary moments in Australian Art history. Surveying major stylistic developments, this auction offers rare and prestigious examples of Colonial Art, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, Modernism, and Abstraction, along with ground-breaking paintings, sculptures and works on paper by the most influential artistic innovators of historical, modern and contemporary Australian art.



John Brack 1920-1999, *Two Running Girls* 1959. Estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000

Included in the seminal *Antipodeans* exhibition in Melbourne in August 1959, *Two Running Girls* (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000, lot 152, pictured) was one of Brack's major contributions. Brack first depicted images of childhood in 1954 when he painted and drew his own children with *First Daughter*, *Second Daughter*, *Third Daughter* and *Fourth Daughter*. Five years later, Brack returned to the theme to explore the dynamics of children in the school yard. *Two Running Girls* is an image in which contradictions and tensions are explored in both a physical and psychological manner; the composition is intelligent, wry, humanist and incisive.

First exhibited in December 1966 at Rudy Komon Art Gallery, Sydney, Fred Williams' *Hillside Landscape No. 1* (1966) (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000, lot 142) has remained in private international ownership for half a century. Critics, historians and collectors have acclaimed Williams' 'Hillside' compositions, as representing a defining moment in the history and development in Australian Art. These landscapes capture the essence and feel of an environment, in a most minimalistic manner. William's Hillside paintings are dynamic compositions with an element of 'magic' invested into them by the artist.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: '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. The quality of works on offer from *The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art* and *Important Australian & International Art* provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to engage with and potentially acquire works of an exceptionally high calibre for an existing or newly established collection.'

AT A GLANCE

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art | Auction in Sydney, 10 May 2016, 6.30 pm
Important Australian & International Art | Auction in Sydney, 11 May 2016, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney
Estimate range: \$10,407,000-14,154,000
Lots on offer: 195

Exhibition in Sydney 5-10 May, 10 am to 5 pm, Paddington Town Hall, 249 Oxford Street, Paddington

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

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