

Sydney 11 May 2016

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## Runaway Success

Important Australian & International Art | Auction in Sydney 11 May 2016



John Brack 1920-1999, *Two Running Girls* 1959. Sold for \$1,647,000 May 2016

11 MAY – Following the success of *The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art* on 10 May, *Important Australian & International Art* tonight realised an exceptional \$8.87 million including buyer's premium with 71.6% sold by volume and 121.6% sold by value. The May sale realised a total \$14.2 million, the highest auction result for Sotheby's Australia since May 2007.

The evening commenced strongly. Fred Williams' *Victorian Landscape* (1976) (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 124) had competitive absentee bids driving the auctioneer to open at \$35,000, with over 7 telephone bidders and numerous room bidders continuing the competition up to \$73,200 when it sold to a telephone bidder.

Paintings by John Brack were keenly sought after. *Two Running Girls* 1959 raced to \$1,647,000 with a room bidder winning the final bid (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000, lot 152, pictured). This work was included in the seminal *Antipodeans* exhibition in Melbourne in August 1959 and was one of Brack's major contributions. Held in the same private collection since 1956, *Christmas Lilies* 1955 bloomed with a result of \$488,000 against an estimate of \$200,000-300,000 (lot 165).

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The highlight of the evening was Fred Williams' *Hillside Landscape No. 1* (1966) selling for \$1,830,000 (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000, lot 142, pictured), the highest priced Australian painting sold at auction since 2014. Repatriated to Australia for auction, the painting remained in private international ownership for half a century.

From the collection of Samuel Courtauld, Roy de Maistre's *The Studio Table* 1928 achieved \$152,500 (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 127). The work provided a unique insight into the studio environment of one of Anglo-Australia's greatest artists. De Maistre's patron Samuel Courtauld was the founder of The Courtauld Institute of Art and The Courtauld Gallery, and donor of acquisition funds for the Tate, London and National Gallery, London.

A previously unknown portrait by Tom Roberts realised \$95,160 (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 183). *Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe* (1891) was commissioned by Dr John Springthorpe, a significant patron of Roberts, captured a tender moment between mother and daughter. The work was consigned by a descendent of Springthorpe's, Ms Judy Totton. Based in the United Kingdom, Totton is an award winning publicist in the music industry and has been engaged by some of the biggest names including Joan Armatrading, David Bowie, Ray Davies, Dire Straits, INXS, Kiss, Chris Rea, Status Quo and Bill Wyman.

Held for 152 years in private collections, Nicholas Chevalier's *Mount Abrupt* 1864 achieved \$292,800 (estimate \$200,000-300,000, lot 137, pictured). This painting remains one of Chevalier's finest compositions that resulted from his expedition to the Grampians in western Victoria in early 1862.

Jacob Janssen recorded poignant aspects of Australia's colonial history. *Government House, Sydney* 1850 realised \$91,500 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 134) depicted the first government residence in the colony of New South Wales.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Tonight we saw a discerning and efficient market at work. Connoisseurs were drawn to works that displayed a key combination of unrivalled quality, great rarity and exceptional provenance. This sale has achieved our highest total result since May 2007. The sale surveyed major stylistic developments in Australian art with rare and prestigious examples of Colonial, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, Modernism, and Abstraction sold.'



Fred Williams 1927-1982, *Hillside Landscape No. 1* (1966). Sold for \$1,830,000 May 2016



Nicholas Chevalier 1828-1902, *Mount Abrupt* 1864. Sold for \$292,800 May 2016

## AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art  
Auction in Sydney, 11 May 2016, 6.30 pm  
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 74  
Total sold \$8,865,740 including buyer's premium  
Sold by volume: 71.62%  
Sold by value: 121.57%

### Total Combined Results for May 2016

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art + Important Australian & International Art  
Auctions in Sydney 10 & 11 May 2016  
Lots on offer: 194  
Total sold \$14,221,418 including buyer's premium  
Sold by volume: 80.93%  
Sold by value: 139.33%  
Highest sales result since May 2007

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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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