

Melbourne 9 August 2016

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

# Howard Arkley's Suburban Dream Poised to Break Auction Record

Important Australian Art | Auction in Sydney 31 August 2016



HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999, *Mod Style* 1992. Estimate \$400,000-500,000

One of **Howard Arkley's** finest interior subjects and the most significant ever offered for auction is poised to create a new auction record. *Mod Style 1992* (estimate \$400,000-500,000, lot 39, pictured), Arkley's unique and explosive critique and celebration of the Great Australian Dream, will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 31 August 2016 at the InterContinental Sydney. Howard Arkley was renowned for his lurid Popist images of eastern suburbs houses, which took on an iconic status as they embraced identifiable middle class taste and environment.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Howard Arkley achieved international attention and acclaim for his images that explored the exterior edifices and interior realms of suburbia. *Mod Style* is one of only 10 major paintings from his seminal 1992 exhibition *Howard Arkley: Mix n Match: A series of Suburban Interiors* that caused a sensation when shown. This series is tightly held by private collectors, with only one, *Spartan Space (Homage to de Stijl)* 1992 in a public institution (Art Gallery of Ballarat). Just as the brick veneer carcass provided a blank canvas for suburban decorators, renovators and gardeners to adapt to their own tastes, so Arkley's paintings, with their thick, furred black outlines and flat planes of day-glo colour function as a screen for the projection of nostalgia or satire, nationalism or formalism, according to the viewer's conceptual and aesthetic inclination. Of great rarity and enduring appeal, *Mod Style* represents a defining moment in the history and development of 20th century Australian art.'

Howard Arkley remains one of Australia's most renowned and highly collected artists. In the past two years, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and National Gallery of Victoria have acquired major paintings by the artist.

## AT A GLANCE

HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999

*Mod Style* 1992

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

172.8 x 135.7 cm

Estimate \$400,000-500,000

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 31 August 2016, 6.30 pm, InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Estimate range: \$6,769,000-9,072,000 | Lots on offer: 68

Exhibition in Melbourne 17-21 August, 10 am to 5 pm, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney 25-31 August, 10 am to 5 pm, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

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