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

Sarah Carroll 03 8416 5999
SCarroll@3dm.com.au

John Kelly: Sculptures



John Kelly, born 1965, *Cow up a Tree* 1999. Image courtesy of the artist

Sotheby's Australia is delighted to announce that it will be the exclusive Australian agent for the promotion and sale of sculptures by internationally renowned artist John Kelly. Known for his large sculptures and paintings of cows, Kelly has had a wide and varied career, establishing a unique and distinguished contemporary style.

Bristol born, Kelly moved to Australia with his parents in 1965, the same year he was born. Kelly now resides in west Cork, Ireland and has English, Australian and Irish nationality. It was during his time in Australia that Kelly developed his affinity with one of his most well recognised subjects, William Dobell's camouflaged cows. An important Australian artist, William Dobell was commissioned to make paper-mâché cows during World War II with the purpose of confusing enemy aircrafts about the locations of Australian airbases.

Working across a range of mediums, Kelly completed a Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts Painting) in 1985 and a Masters of Arts at RMIT University, Melbourne in 1995. Kelly went on to win an Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship and study as an Affiliate Student at the

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Slade School of Art in London. While in London Kelly exhibited at the prestigious Piccadilly Gallery and later was represented by Agnew's. Kelly continues to exhibit regularly in the United Kingdom.

Kelly's sculptures have also been featured on the Champs Elysées, Paris, in *Les Champs de la Sculpture*, 1999 and Monte Carlo, in *La Parade des Animaux*, 2002, as well as The Hague, 2007 and Melbourne Docklands (2001 to present). Kelly's three-dimensional work has also featured in the Guangzhou Triennale (2008) and the Goteborg Biennale 2011.



John Kelly, born 1965, *Three Cows in a Pile* 2001

'To be working with Sotheby's Australia is a great honour, especially for a living artist. I am looking forward to seeing my sculpture in such prestigious company and feel fortunate I can do so' said the artist John Kelly

'During the past two decades John Kelly has developed a distinguished reputation in Australia and internationally for his sculptures that combine his unique intellect and humour,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'We look forward to working with John in documenting and exhibiting his three dimensional subjects that have already made a significant contribution to the history and development of Australian art.'

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