

Smith&Singer

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SMITH & SINGER ACHIEVE HIGHEST AUSTRALIAN FINE ART AUCTION
TOTAL OF 2020 WITH \$6,620,940

24% of Lots Sold Realise Prices in Excess of \$200,000

*4 Works Realise Prices in Excess of \$400,000 with a Sold Rate of 111% by Value
for the Auction*

*5 Auction Records Set, as Strong National & International Bidding Drives Prices
Well Above Estimates*

*Smith & Singer Continue to Lead the Australian Art Auction Market for Fifth
Consecutive Year*



HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999

Stucco House 1988

synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 175.2 x 135.2 cm

Estimate \$700,000–900,000

Sold for \$854,000

AUCTION RECORD FOR AN EXTERIOR SUBJECT BY THE ARTIST

© The Estate of Howard Arkley/Licensed by Kalli Rolfe Contemporary Art

SYDNEY, 25 June 2020 – Last night at Smith & Singer’s auction of *Important Australian & International Art*, bidders in the saleroom, on the telephones and online competed fiercely to acquire the exceptional pieces of art on offer, resulting in the highest fine art sale total realised by any auction house in Australia this year. Outstanding prices were achieved for both international and Australian artists, reaffirming Smith & Singer’s leadership of the market and confirming the depth of demand for fine art in Australia.

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Totalling \$6,620,940, and with a sold-rate by value of 111%, the auction set records for several artists, including Alexander McKenzie, Sir George Clausen, Howard Arkley, Adrian Feint and David Larwill.

The evening sale commenced with a frenzy of bidding on the telephones for a delicate and luminous work by Arthur Boyd, *Evening, Shoalhaven River* (1976), which sold for \$70,760 against an estimate of \$25,000–35,000. Remarkable results continued throughout the sale and include the recently rediscovered *Laughing Child* 1958 by John Brack (lot 6, estimate \$400,000–600,000) which sold on the telephone for \$915,000; Joel Elenberg's *Mask C* (1980) (lot 11, estimate \$120,000–160,000) which sold for \$219,600 after strong competition; an auction record for a Howard Arkley exterior – realised by the electric *Stucco House* 1988 (lot, 12, estimate \$700,000–900,000) which sold for \$854,000; Ethel Carrick's convivial *The Market, Caudebec* (1903) (lot 27, estimate \$140,000–180,000), which sold for \$274,500; an Australian auction record for renowned English Naturalist, Sir George Clausen, when *A Village Boy* 1899, was hammered down for \$488,000 (lot 24, estimate \$400,000–600,000); and an auction record for a landscape by Adrian Feint, when *The Terrace, Neidpath* 1942 – his long-lost, wartime portrayal of the renowned Darling Point property – sold for \$54,900 (lot 36, estimate \$15,000–25,000).

1 WORLD AUCTION RECORD

- Lot 53, Alexander McKenzie born 1971, *Strong Tower* 2009, estimate \$18,000–25,000, sold for \$42,700

1 AUSTRALIAN AUCTION RECORD

- Lot 24, Sir George Clausen, R.A., R.W.S., R.I. 1852-1944, *A Village Boy* 1899, estimate \$400,000–600,000, sold for \$488,000

3 AUCTION RECORDS BY SUBJECT/MEDIUM

- Lot 12, Howard Arkley 1951-1999, *Stucco House* 1988, estimate \$700,000–900,000, sold for \$854,000 – Auction Record for an Exterior Subject by the Artist
- Lot 36, Adrian Feint 1894-1971, *The Terrace, Neidpath* 1942, estimate \$15,000–25,000, sold for \$54,900 – Auction Record for a Landscape Subject by the Artist & Second-Highest Price for the Artist
- Lot 52, David Larwill 1956-2011, *Contemplating His Place in Humanity* 2011, estimate \$30,000–40,000, sold for \$39,040 – Auction Record for a Carving by the Artist

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Smith & Singer, commented: 'We are enormously pleased with last night's result of \$6,620,940, which continues our leadership of the fine art auction market in Australia. As the premier art business in the nation, we are proud to have achieved the highest sale total of the year so far and I thank our clients for their ongoing trust during these challenging times, and our colleagues for their dedication over the last few months. Having achieved so many strong individual results – and having realised a sold rate of 111% by value – reflects the depth of demand in the Australian market, and the resilience of the Australian public in their continuing support of the national art industry.'

RECORD RESULTS



HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999

Stucco House 1988

synthetic polymer paint on canvas,

175.2 x 135.2 cm

Estimate \$700,000–900,000

Sold for \$854,000

AUCTION RECORD FOR AN EXTERIOR
SUBJECT BY THE ARTIST

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Sir George Clausen, R.A., R.W.S., R.I.
1852-1944

A Village Boy 1899

oil on canvas, 41.9 x 31.7 cm

Estimate \$400,000–600,000

Sold for \$488,000

AUSTRALIAN AUCTION RECORD FOR
THE ARTIST



ADRIAN FEINT 1894-1971

The Terrace, Neidpath 1942

oil on canvas, 51 x 46 cm

Estimate \$15,000–25,000

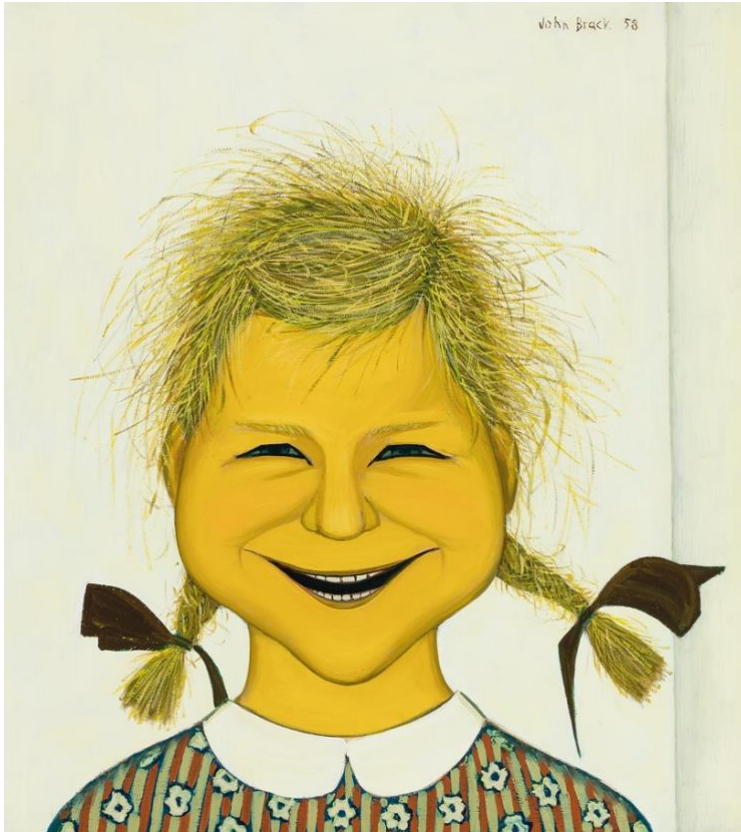
Sold for \$54,900

AUCTION RECORD FOR A LANDSCAPE
SUBJECT BY THE ARTIST
SECOND-HIGHEST PRICE ACHIEVED AT
AUCTION FOR THE ARTIST

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COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



JOHN BRACK 1920-1999

Laughing Child 1958

oil on canvas, 45.8 x 40.8 cm

Estimate \$400,000–600,000

Sold for \$915,000

© Helen Brack



FREDERICK MCCUBBIN 1855-1917

The Bathers 1906

oil on canvas, 51 x 76.5 cm

Estimate \$400,000–600,000

Sold for \$439,200

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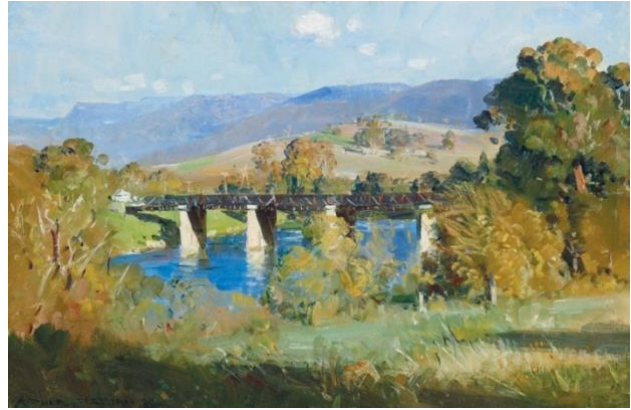
ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943

**Bridge in New Norfolk,
Tasmania 1938**

oil on canvas, 51.5 x 76.5 cm

Estimate \$100,000–150,000

Sold for \$292,800



ETHEL CARRICK 1872-1952

The Market, Caudebec (1903)

oil on canvas, 51.4 x 61.3 cm

Estimate \$140,000–180,000

Sold for \$274,500



JOEL ELENBERG 1948-1980

Mask C (1980)

bronze (brown patina) and black
Belgian marble, edition of 6, plus 2
artist's proofs, 104 (including base)

x 47 x 24 cm

Estimate \$120,000–160,000

Sold for \$219,600

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AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art
Auction in Sydney, 24 June 2020, 6.30 pm
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Lots on offer: 59
Total sold: \$6,620,940 including buyer's premium
Sold by value: 111% including buyer's premium
Sold by volume: 76%

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Please note all prices include buyer's premium. Sale session totals are net aggregate figures inclusive of premiums. Sotheby's Australia's buyer's premium is 22% of the hammer price. ** Estimates do not include buyer's premium**

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