

FINANCIAL REVIEW

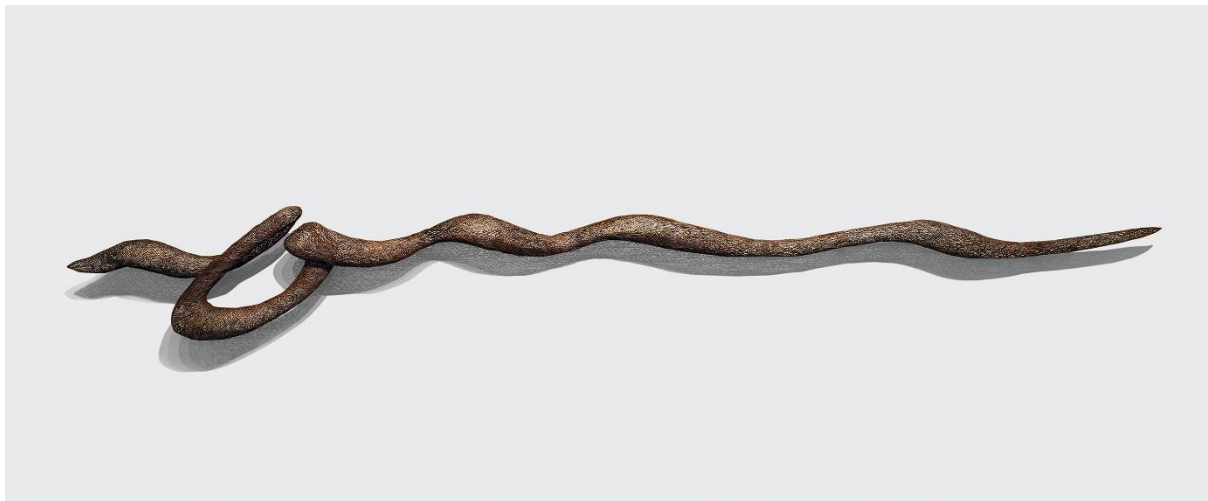
Quay restaurant's iconic 4m-long sculpture is for sale

Elizabeth Fortescue

Oct 30, 2024 – 1.16pm

A stunning sculpture which greeted patrons to Sydney's swish Quay restaurant is being sold by the wealthy Fink family, and is predicted to set a record at auction.

The intricate and sinuous copper form, titled *Tide*, 2000, was made by Bronwyn Oliver, who left a legacy of great beauty when she took her own life in 2006 at the age of 47.



"Tide", 2000, by Bronwyn Oliver, is poised to set a new price record for Australian sculpture. It's estimated at \$1 million to \$1.5 million in Smith & Singer's November 27, 2024 auction in Sydney.

At its pre-sale estimate of \$1 million to \$1.5 million, *Tide* is poised to become the most expensive Australian sculpture ever sold at auction, according to auctioneers Smith & Singer, who will offer the work in its Important Australian Art auction in Sydney on November 27.



Detail of Bronwyn Oliver's "Tide".

Joel Elenberg's *Mask I, 1978*, set the current record in August 2023 when S&S sold it for \$1,156,250 (including buyer's premium, as do all sale prices in this article) against an estimate of \$350,000 to \$450,000.

Tide was commissioned for Quay by the Fink family whose Fink Group, together with chef Peter Gilmore, created a multi award-winning dining experience on Sydney Harbour.

Quay not only hung *Tide* in pride of place at its entrance, it adapted the image for its corporate logo.



Sculptor Bronwyn Oliver at work in her studio, in 2006. Sonia Payes

Tide is a touch over four metres long. Cumbersome to transport, the sculpture will be in the Sydney viewing of works before the auction but not in the Melbourne viewing.

Like Gilmore's menus, Oliver's sculptures were inspired by nature, and often evoked plant parts or sea creatures.

"It's a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire a masterpiece of Australian art directly from its first custodian [the Fink family]," said Smith & Singer chairman Geoffrey Smith.