

More than a Candle in the Wind: Elton John's former Lamp for Auction

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ART, DECORATIVE
ARTS & FURNITURE, AUCTION 30 & 31 OCTOBER 2012



AN IMPORTANT SIMONET FRERES ART DECO GILT AND PATINATED BRONZE, MOULDED GLASS AND MARBLE LAMP
DESIGNED BY HENRI DIEUPART AND ALBERT SIMONET, FRENCH, CIRCA 1925, ESTIMATE \$40,000-60,000

AN IMPORTANT 20th Century design lamp formerly in the collection of **Sir Elton John** will be auctioned by **Sotheby's Australia on 30 October 2012**. Extolling the modern age and exploiting the ability to capture the energy of the electric light, the French Simonet Freres art deco lamp, features Satyr masks and floral decorations and comprises a moulded glass dome on a bronze and marble stand. The work was

acquired from the Elton John Collection via Sotheby's, London in 1988 by **Rene Rivkin**, and subsequently sold to a private collector in Melbourne (An important Simonet Freres Art Deco gilt and patinated bronze, moulded glass and marble lamp designed by Henri Dieupart and Albert Simonet, French, circa 1925, estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 64, pictured previous).

Another sale highlight following the Art Deco theme is ***Australian Beach Pattern***, painted by Fletcher Martin after Charles Meere's famous work now in the collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. The circumstances surrounding Martin's encounter with Meere's painting remains unclear, however the decision to interpret the



composition is not surprising. It is known that both artists trained as mural painters. Fletcher Martin, largely self-taught served in the U.S.A. Navy as a young man before working as a printer, an occupation that segued in the mid-1930s into painting. The present work emerged recently from a private collection in the United States of America, (Fletcher Martin 1904-1979, *Australian Beach Pattern* (After Charles Meere), estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 284, pictured). The Sotheby's Australia sale also includes many other fine pieces of Australian & International 20th Century Art and Design.

Aside from Australia's fascination with the beach, another favourite recreational pastime - horseracing - is exemplified with the inclusion of the **Makybe Diva racing silks** worn by Glen Boss on his winning ride at the Turnbull Stakes in October 2005. After winning the Turnbull Stakes at Flemington and the W.S. Cox Plate at Monee Valley, the great mare went on to win the Melbourne Cup, on 1 November 2005. Makybe Diva was retired following this third historic Melbourne Cup Victory, having

completed many legendary track feats, and placing her with the great racing icons Phar Lap and Carbine (Makybe Diva, a set of autographed racing silks and cap worn by Glenn Boss on his winning ride at the Turnbull Stakes, Flemington, October 1, 2005, estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 16).

It was an aviation race to Australia in 1919 from England that introduces us to two important historical documents celebrating the evolution of communication. **The 1919 London to Adelaide Air Race Flag and the Stamp** commemorating the first aerial mail are being offered separately by Sotheby's Australia (The 1919 London to Adelaide air race flag, estimate \$8,000-12,000, lot



9, pictured and, stamp commemorating the first aerial mail, Great Britain to Australia, 12 November-10 December 1919, estimate \$7,000-9,000, lot 10). On the afternoon of 10 December 1919, Captain Ross Smith, his brother (and assistant pilot/navigator) Lieutenant Keith Smith and their two flight mechanics Sergeant Walter Shiers and Warrant Officer James Bennett landed their Vickers Vimy bi-plane at Darwin. The team had just **completed the first ever flight from England to Australia** in less than 1 month and marked the **commencement of the aerial mail service** between England and Australia. It was in March 1920 when the Smith Brothers made it to Adelaide where they received a hometown welcome bonanza. The occasion of the visit also provided an opportunity for some Boy Scout entrepreneurialism. The commemorative silk flag bearing the legend 'London to Adelaide 1920' was made by the department store John Martin & Co., signed by the four members of the flight crew and offered for auction to benefit the Boy Scouts Association.



Press Release Melbourne

11 October 2012

For Immediate Release

The Sotheby's Australia auction includes a diverse collection of over 150 quality Asian works of art including fine ceramics, carvings and bronzes. Comprising 516 lots, the auction will be conducted by Sotheby's Australia on 30 and 31 October in Melbourne, with a combined estimated value of \$1.4 to 2 million.

'Sotheby's Australia continues to present a diverse and significant collection of fine Asian, Australian and European art, decorative arts and furniture,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'It is a great pleasure to offer so many significant pieces of cultural history from Australia and around the world.'

AT A GLANCE

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ART, DECORATIVE ARTS & FURNITURE
SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA
AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 30 & 31 OCTOBER 2012 | 6 PM

LOTS ON OFFER: 516
SESSION ONE | LOTS 1-273
SESSION TWO | LOTS 274-515
ESTIMATE RANGE: \$1.4-2 million

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE
THURSDAY 25 - SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER, 10AM TO 5PM
926 HIGH STREET ARMADALE

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For a full catalogue, high resolution images, further information or to arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman, please contact:

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**Pre-estimates do not include buyer's premium.