

Important Australian & International Art

MELBOURNE 20 NOVEMBER 2012



JEFFREY SMART, BORN 1921, *REFLECTED ARROWS* (1974). ESTIMATE \$150,000-250,000

A DIVERSE COLLECTION of colonial through to contemporary **Australian & International Art** will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia on **20 November 2012 in Melbourne**. Comprising just 69 lots the presale estimate is \$4.4 to \$6.1 million. The breadth of this sale is illustrated by colonial works such as an important drawing of a Rainbow Lorikeet by Moses Griffith from 1772 (estimate \$150,000-200,000, lot 27), through to contemporary works including British artist Antony Gormley's cubic, figural sculpture, *Meme CLIII* 2011 (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 65).

Sotheby's Australia are particularly honoured to be entrusted with the sale of Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly: Crossing the River* 1955 (estimate \$800,000-1,200,000, lot 21, pictured). The painting was formerly in the collection of Cynthia Nolan and has been and has never previously been offered for public auction. Here the Australian outlaw is reduced to neck, helmet, eyes, arm and rifle, as he defiantly and courageously traverses the land of 'droughts and flooding rains'.



Australian art produced during the second half of the twentieth century is strongly represented. Highlights include Charles Blackman's *Schoolgirl Reading* 1954 (estimate \$140,000-180,000, lot 33), John Brack's *Flowering Gum* 1958 (estimate \$120,000-160,000, lot 10), Sidney Nolan's *Latrine Sitter* 1942 (estimate \$80,000-120,000, lot 18), Brett Whiteley's *The Valley at Dusk* (1983) (estimate \$400,000-500,000, lot 15) and Fred William's *Rocks* (1957-1958) (estimate \$80,000-120,000, lot 19). The auction also includes four works by Justin O'Brien, including the widely published work *The Baptism of Christ* (1949) (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 9).

The sale also features two superb examples by Jeffrey Smart. The large and impressive *The New School II* (2004) (estimate \$400,000-600,000, lot 38) borrows much of its composition from *The Ideal City*, painted circa 1470 by Smart's great hero, Piero della Francesca; the school buildings and apartment blocks to the right and left clearly echo those in the Renaissance picture, while Piero's multi-coloured pavement is here reprised in the painted lines of a generic ball-sports court. Smart's own flair for design can be seen in *Reflected Arrows* (1974) (estimate \$150,000-250,000, lot 11, pictured previous), a harmony of straight lines and angles, circles and ellipses, architecture and the human figure. This painting featured in the 1982 survey and was the poster image for the artist's 1999 retrospective exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

'Sotheby's Australia remains committed to sourcing and offering only the finest works by Australia's most significant, colonial, modern and contemporary practitioners' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'It has been a year of numerous highlights and we look forward to welcoming the public to our viewings in Sydney and Melbourne.'

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL ART, SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA
AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 20 NOVEMBER 2012 | 6.30PM
926 HIGH STREET, ARMADALE VIC 3143

TOTAL LOTS ON OFFER: 69
TOTAL ESTIMATE RANGE: \$4,395,000-6,161,000

EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY
THURSDAY 8 - SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 10AM TO 5PM
118-122 QUEEN STREET WOOLLAHRA

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE
THURSDAY 15 - MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 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.