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Prized Art from The Estate of the Late Diana Gaze for Auction

MELBOURNE 14 MAY 2013



ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999, *OLD MINE SHAFT* (1958-1959). ESTIMATE \$120,000-150,000

In May 2013, Sotheby's Australia will offer for sale works of art from The Estate of the Late Mrs Diana Gaze. Diana Gaze (1925-2012) and her first husband Lex Davison (1923-1965) were active supporters and promoters of contemporary Australian art. Their early acquisitions during the 1950s formed the cornerstone of the collection and included masterpieces by Arthur Boyd and John Perceval. Arthur Boyd's *Storm at Ricketts Point* (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 8), *Old Mine Shaft* (estimate \$120,000-150,000, lot 9, pictured) and *The Bridge Lysterfield* (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 10) were purchased between 1958 and 1959. From Boyd's 'golden age' of Australian landscape painting completed just prior to his departure for England, these impressionistic works are remarkable for their unmistakable intimacy and love of the Australian coast and bush.

Another highlight of the collection is John Perceval's *River Forest* 1959 (estimate \$120,000-150,000, lot 11, pictured) which is one of the artist's great bush landscapes still in a private ownership. The artist's enthusiasm for painting outdoors and capturing particular moods and moments perfectly suited his energetic and tactile technique and vigorous application of paint.



JOHN PERCEVAL 1923-2000, *RIVER FOREST* 1959.
ESTIMATE \$120,000-150,000

The business interests of the Davisons' were centred around Paragon Shoes, which included retail and leather tannery, as well as property acquisitions. Lex Davison was an avid motor enthusiast, and won the Australian Grand Prix on four occasions (1954, 1957,

1958 and 1961) and competed and won several other motorsport events. In 1964 at Lake Eyre South Australia, Davison assisted Donald Campbell with his land-speed attempt. Tragically, a year later Davison was killed at Sandown Park, Melbourne. He was survived by his wife, Diana, and seven children.

In 1977 Diana married Tony Gaze DFC & Two Bars, OAM, distinguished World War II flying ace and Australia's first F1 racing driver. Together Diana and Tony continued to collect Australian art and in the 1980s acquired Arthur Boyd's *Landscape with House* (1937-1938) (estimate \$10,000-12,000, lot 13) and *Pointing Woman with Trout* (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 12).

'A person of great intelligence, beauty and style, Diana Gaze created many memorable environments that celebrated the Australian landscape, art and architecture,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'We are honoured to be entrusted with the sale of this most distinguished collection that reflects the particular taste and discernment of notable Australian collectors of the twentieth century.'

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART
Including The Estate of the Late Mrs Diana Gaze

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE
ANZAC HOUSE, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE
14 MAY 2013 | 6.30 PM

EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY
2-5 MAY 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM
118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE
9-13 MAY 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM
ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

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For high resolution images, further information or to arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman, please contact John Keats or Yumeko Leung.

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