
Melbourne | 03 9509 2900 | John Keats | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au
Melbourne | 03 8416 5999 | Amy Crowe | acrowe@3dm.com.au

A Successful Knight

THE ANTHONY & BEVERLY KNIGHT COLLECTION OF EARLY
PAPUNYA ART | IMPORTANT ABORIGINAL & OCEANIC ART
MELBOURNE 28 MAY 2013



KAAPA TJAMPITJINPA, CIRCA 1920-1989, *CORROBOREE AND BODY DECORATION* (1972) SOLD FOR \$109,800 MAY 2013

STRONG RESULTS were achieved at Sotheby's Australia's major Aboriginal & Oceanic art sale held on **Tuesday, 28 May 2013** in Melbourne. **The Anthony & Beverly Knight Collection of Early Papunya Art and Important Aboriginal & Oceanic Art** comprised **120 lots** and sold **\$2,272,372** including buyer's premium (IBP) or **106% by value and 59% by volume**. 'Sotheby's Australia was honoured to be entrusted with the sale of The Anthony & Beverly Knight Collection of Early Papunya Art, the Knights are eminent and long-standing advocates of Indigenous Australian culture,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

A Sale highlight from the Knight Collection included **Kaapa (Mbitjana) Tjampitjinpa's** *Corroboree and Body Decoration* (1972) with a result that exceeded the high estimate totalling \$109,800 IBP (estimate \$70,000-90,000, lot 16, pictured previous). Kaapa was a 'larrikin' in the early settlement of Papunya and became one of the strongest leaders and champions of the local Indigenous Art community and the first Chairman of Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd.

An auction record was set for the artist George Tjangala at \$34,160 IBP. *Men and Women at Snake Ceremony* (1971) exceeded the presale auction estimate of \$18,000-25,000 (lot 9). The small board possesses an intimate informality in which the artist's hand can be felt, perhaps painting with new media for the first time.



CHARLES HENRY KERRY 1857-1928, HENRY KING 1855-1923
BARRON RIVER NATIVE FROM SIX ALBUMS OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS (EARLY 20TH CENTURY). SOLD FOR \$xxx,xxx
MAY 2013

Within the Important Aboriginal & Oceanic Art auction, strong bidding in the room and via telephones achieved an outstanding result of \$231,800 IBP for the **six albums of 144 ethnographic photographs** (Charles Henry Kerry and Henry King, *Six Albums of Indigenous Australians*, estimate \$120,000-180,000, lot 54, image pictured right). The albums are an extraordinary record, with many of the photographs recording the pain of people entrapped by the cruelty of colonial conquest. One of the most celebrated images was subsequently appropriated by Brook Andrew for his iconic *Sexy & Dangerous* 1996.

Repatriated from the United States of America, **Uta Uta Tjangala's** *Special Pintupi Travelling Ceremony* (1972) (lot 83) sold for \$183,000 IBP against a presale estimate of \$80,000-120,000. Open to much interpretation through the symbols used, the specific information about the site or dreaming remains unknown, its true narrative lost since the artist created the work.

The luminescent work of **Paddy Bedford (Nyunkuny)**'s epic *Thoowoongoonarrin* (2006) was a contemporary highlight of the evening with a result of \$183,000 IBP (estimate \$150,000-180,000, lot 101). The work is of the geographical site of the artist's mother's country and where his maternal aunt was buried.

Artefacts including boomerangs, clubs and shields performed exceptionally well and produced strong results. **An Early and Exceptional Parrying Shield** from South East Australia sold for \$67,100 IBP against an estimate of \$15,000-20,000 (lot 49). **A Collection of Artefacts** from South East Australia sold for \$75,640 IBP almost quadrupling the lower estimate of \$15,000 (estimate \$15,000-20,000, lot 53).

From the 19th century a wonderful ink drawing by Tommy MacRae generated fierce competition with a result of \$79,300 *Returning from the Chase* (circa 1890) (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 56) is rendered in MacRae's silhouette style and depicts a group of hunters returning to camp with their catch, and with a lack of kangaroo skin cloaks, it is assumed the work was made in the warmer months.

'These results reaffirm Sotheby's Australia's market strategy of carefully curated auction catalogues that concentrate on works of the highest quality and significance', said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

AT A GLANCE

THE ANTHONY & BEVERLY KNIGHT COLLECTION OF EARLY PAPUNYA ART
and
IMPORTANT ABORIGINAL & OCEANIC ART, SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA
AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 28 MAY 2013 | 6.30PM
ANZAC HOUSE, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, VIC

TOTAL SALE INCLUDING BUYER'S PREMIUM \$2,272,372
SOLD BY VALUE 106.43%
SOLD BY VOLUME 59.17%

SOTHEBYSAUSTRALIA.COM.AU

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

John Keats | 03 9509 2900 | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au
Amy Crowe | 03 8416 5999 | acrowe@3dm.com.au

#

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

Sotheby's Australia is a trade mark used under licence from Sotheby's. Second East Auction Holdings Pty Ltd is independent of the Sotheby's Group. The Sotheby's Group is not responsible for the acts or omissions of Second East Auction Holdings Pty Ltd