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

Important Aboriginal & Oceanic Art

MELBOURNE 28 MAY 2013



CHARLES HENRY KERRY 1857-1928, HENRY KING 1855-1923 *BARRON RIVER NATIVE* (CIRCA 1886)

An impressive selection of Indigenous art and artefacts from the 19th century through to the present day will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia on **28 May 2013 in Melbourne**. **Important Aboriginal & Oceanic Art**, featuring 74 lots with a combined pre-sale estimate value of \$1.3 to \$1.9 million, directly follows **The Anthony & Beverly Knight Collection of Early Papunya Art**.

Sotheby's Australia is particularly honoured to have been entrusted with the sale of 144 ethnographic photographs of Indigenous persons, with some engaged in ceremonial activities (Charles Henry Kerry and Henry King, *Six Albums of Indigenous Australians*, estimate \$120,000-180,000, lot 54, single image pictured previous). The group of six albums is an extraordinary record, many of the photographs record the pain of people entrapped by the cruelty of colonial conquest. Strangely mute, the images are a measure of the distance between settler society and the diverse peoples of Aboriginal Australia. One of the most celebrated images was subsequently appropriated by Brook Andrew for his iconic *Sexy & Dangerous* 1996.



PADDY BEDFORD (NYUNKUNY), CIRCA 1922-2007,
THOOWOONGGOONARRINI (2006)
ESTIMATE \$150,000-180,000

Three important early Papunya boards from the collection of Anne Chase have been repatriated from the United States of America, including Uta Uta Tjangala's *Special Pintupi Travelling Ceremony* (1972), a complex painting interwoven with many layers of meaning (estimate \$80,000-120,000, lot 83). 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. Uta Uta Tjangala was a painter of the body, and the proportions of this work closely relate to the human torso.

Contemporary Indigenous Art is well represented by formidable works by Paddy Bedford (Nyunkuny), including his epic *Thoowoonggoonarrin* (2006) (estimate \$150,000-180,000, lot 101, pictured). A luminescent work of natural earth pigments, the subject depicts a geographical site of much significance to the artist, with it being his mother's country and where his maternal aunt was buried.

'Sotheby's Australia remain highly focused and committed to sourcing and offering only the finest examples of Indigenous Australian art and artefacts,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'This commitment provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to engage with and potentially acquire works from our diverse Indigenous culture from early works on paper, through to Papunya boards and contemporary art.'

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT ABORIGINAL & OCEANIC ART

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE

ANZAC HOUSE, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

28 MAY 2013 | 6.30 PM

ESTIMATE \$1,369,000-1,940,500

LOTS ON OFFER: 74

EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY

16-19 MAY 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM

118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

23-27 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 Amy Crowe.

John Keats | 03 9509 2900 | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Amy Crowe | 03 8416 5999 | acrowe@3dm.com.au

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