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## Launch of Arts & Design

MELBOURNE 18 JUNE 2013



A PAIR OF WUCAI 'DRAGON AND PHOENIX' BOWLS MARKS AND PERIOD OF KANGXI. ESTIMATE \$30,000-50,000

Sotheby's Australia is pleased to announce the **forthcoming Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design** auction to be held in **Melbourne, 18 June 2013**. The sale focus is a refreshing new look at designers and practitioners of fine Australian and international works of art and design. Highlights of the sale include carefully selected examples of Chinese ceramics, designer furniture, European glass and silver and a strong selection of Australian and European paintings and works on paper. Leading practitioners include **Grant Featherston, Georg Jensen, Tiffany & Co.** and noted Australian artists **Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, William Dobell, John Gould, Justin O'Brien and Brett Whiteley**. Comprising 230 lots, the sale estimate is \$1.3-1.9 million.

A highlight of the sale is a large folio of six volumes of John Gould's, *A Monograph of the Trochilidae, or Family of Humming-Birds* (John Gould 1807-1861, *A Monograph of the Trochilidae, or Family of Humming-Birds*, London, 1849-1861 (with Supplement, 1880-1887), estimate \$160,000-200,000, lot 84, pictured). The volumes depict how the Hummingbird was a labour of love for Gould. The publication was a work of tremendous scientific value, but also recognised for its artistic quality. Using a combination of transparent oil and varnish over gold leaf, Gould's artists and colourists were able to successfully capture the peculiar metallic iridescence of hummingbird plumage.



JOHN GOULD 1807-1861, *A MONOGRAPH OF THE TROCHILIDAE, OR FAMILY OF HUMMING-BIRDS*, LONDON, 1849-1861 (WITH SUPPLEMENT, 1880-1887), ESTIMATE \$160,000-200,000

A painting by William Dobell depicts the opera singer Miss Dorothy Helmrich in full voice (William Dobell 1899-1970, *Miss Dorothy Helmrich* 1940, estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 118). Of dramatic effect the singer is depicted under a single spotlight, creating a long standing silhouette of a figure alone in a dark background.

A truly Australian piece of furniture is a chair designed by Grant Featherston, upholstered in fabric designed by the Australian artist John Olsen (A Grant Featherston Contour Chair, Model R152, circa 1952, estimate \$4,500-5,000, lot 170, pictured following). Featherston has long been recognised for his distinctive furniture designs.

Asian Art features strongly in the sale, and includes fine bronzes, carvings, furniture and rare ceramics. From the period of Kangxi, two elegant Wucai bowls are another highlight with the auspicious representation of a dragon and phoenix conveying a wish for a happy marriage (A pair of Wucai 'dragon and phoenix' bowls, marks and period of Kangxi, estimate \$30,000-50,000, lot 17, pictured first page).

'Sotheby's Australia remain highly focused and committed to sourcing and offering only the finest examples of Arts and Design,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'This commitment provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to acquire a piece of furniture, a fine ceramic or a quality painting made or designed by some of the finest practitioners.'

## AT A GLANCE

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ARTS & DESIGN

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE

18 JUNE 2013 | 6 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 1, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

ESTIMATE \$1,366,600-1,960,200

LOTS ON OFFER: 230

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

13-17 JUNE 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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\*\*Pre-estimates do not include buyer's premium.



A GRANT FEATHERSTON CONTOUR  
CHAIR, MODEL R152, CIRCA 1952.  
ESTIMATE \$4,500-5000