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Historic Results

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART
SYDNEY 27 AUGUST 2013



ROBERT NEILL 1801-1852, *ABORIGINES OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND* 1828. SOLD FOR \$219,600 AUGUST 2013
NEW AUCTION RECORD FOR THE ARTIST

STRONG RESULTS for colonial, modern and contemporary art were achieved at Sotheby's Australia's major sale held on **Tuesday, 27 August 2013 in Sydney**. **Important Australian Art** comprised **48 lots** and sold **\$1,972,740 including buyer's premium (IBP) or 40% by value and 42% by volume**. A highlight of the sale was one of the earliest known depictions in oil of Indigenous Australians - Robert Neill's *Aborigines of Van Diemen's Land* 1828, that generated competitive bidding and achieved a new auction record for the artist and sold to a telephone bidder for \$219,600 IBP (estimate \$180,000-250,000, lot 3, pictured).

Another colonial work from Tasmania which also set an auction record was the exquisite *Portrait of Thomas Giblin* (1846) which sold for \$109,800 IBP (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 23). Sourced from a private collection in Scotland, after the pre-sale announcement, descendants of Giblin contacted Sotheby's Australia to see this portrait which provided a fascinating insight into early colonial life, where the fashionably dressed and prominent sitter engaged the most accomplished portrait painter of the day, regardless of the artist's convict status and criminal past.

A selection of modern art was well received during the sale. *The Hitch-Hiker* (1972) by Jeffrey Smart was picked-up for \$366,000 IBP (estimate \$300,000-400,000, lot 11) and there was no hanging around as Fred Williams' delightful central Victorian landscape work of *Hanging Rock* (1976, 1980) sold for \$268,400 IBP (estimate \$220,000-280,000, lot 5).

There were several masterpieces of contemporary art offered at the Sydney auction. Peter Booth's *Untitled* 1997 achieved an auction record for the artist and sold for \$183,000 IBP and was one of the artist's finest snowscapes ever offered at auction (estimate \$150,000-200,000, lot 16). The exceptional fine porcelain work by Gwyn Hannsen Pigott was much admired through the exhibitions, and sold for \$26,840 IBP (estimate \$22,000-28,000, lot 16).

'Sotheby's Australia achieved several strong results and auction records that reflect our commitment to present well-curated and researched sales from the colonial to contemporary period' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART

AUCTION IN SYDNEY

118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

27 AUGUST 2013 | 6.30 PM

TOTAL SALE INCLUDING BUYER'S PREMIUM \$1,972,740

SOLD BY VALUE 40%

SOLD BY VOLUME 42%

ARTIST RECORDS AT AUCTION

Peter Booth, born 1940, *Untitled* 1997, oil on canvas

Sold for \$183,000 including buyer's premium

Robert Neill 1801-1852, *Aborigines of van Diemen's Land* 1828, oil on board

Sold for \$219,600 including buyer's premium

Thomas Wainewright 1794-1847, *Portrait of Thomas Giblin* (1846), pencil and watercolour heightened with white on paper

Sold for \$109,800 including buyer's premium

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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.