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Important Australian Art

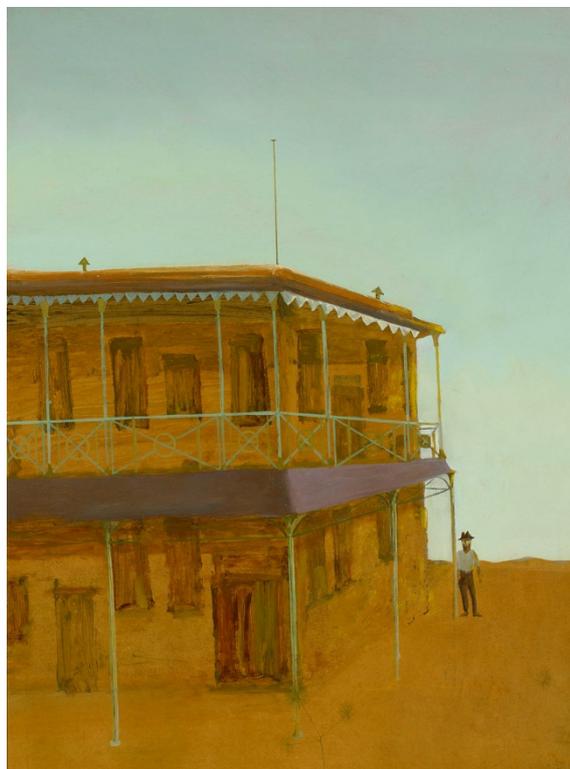
AUCTION IN SYDNEY 27 AUGUST 2013



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992, *THE ORANGE NUDE* (1981). ESTIMATE \$900,000-1,200,000

An impressive selection of **Important Australian Art** from early colonial to contemporary paintings, works on paper and sculpture will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia on **27 August 2013 in Sydney**. Featuring 48 lots, the auction has a combined pre-sale estimate value of \$4.98 to \$6.76 million. The breadth of the sale is exemplified by the highly significant inclusion of one of the earliest known depictions in oil of Indigenous Australians, painted by Robert Neill in 1828 (*Aborigines of Van Diemen's Land* 1828, estimate \$180,000-250,000, lot 3), through to masterpieces of contemporary art, of which Peter Booth's *Untitled* 1997 is the artist's finest snowscapes ever offered at auction (estimate \$150,000-200,000, lot 16).

Sidney Nolan is superbly represented in the sale by *Royal Hotel* 1948, an iconic subject from his extraordinary Queensland township series that launched his national reputation (estimate \$600,000-800,000, lot 14, pictured). Retained by Cynthia Nolan for the family's personal collection, the painting formed a highlight of The Estate of Sir Sidney Nolan sold by Sotheby's Australia in 2001. Nolan's singular vision of creating an image of Australia that was simultaneously nostalgic and contemporary defined for many what it was to be Australian. *Royal Hotel* is complemented in this sale by Nolan's *Desert Bird* 1948 (estimate \$400,000-600,000, lot 7), which appears for sale for the first time since it was acquired by the owner's family in 1948 and holds the distinction of the first work that was purchased by an independent collector not known to the artist.



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992, *ROYAL HOTEL* 1948.
ESTIMATE \$600,000-800,000

The female nude is a recurrent and powerful theme in Brett Whiteley's imagery. *The Orange Nude* 1981 (estimate \$900,000-1,200,000, lot 17, pictured previous) is a highly acclaimed image from Whiteley's series of highly stylised studio-nudes and was last publically shown at the artist's retrospective exhibition that toured nationally. With references to the great nudes of Matisse and Picasso, the subject of a seated

anonymous woman on a bentwood chair explores sensuality and sexuality in an intimate and personal environment.



JOHN OLSEN, BORN 1928, *GOYA'S DOG AND THE PAELLA*
1986. ESTIMATE \$200,000-300,000

Following a return visit to Spain in 1985, John Olsen painted *Goya's Dog and the Paella* 1986 (estimate \$200,000-300,000, lot 28, pictured). The reference to 'Goya's Dog' alludes to one of the Spanish masters late, great 'Black Paintings' which depicted an abject, questioning beast with only its head visible. Olsen incorporated the animal into his own symbolic imagery where it re-emerged in the present major painting amidst the warmth and sunny optimism of Olsen's exuberant technique and vibrant palette.

Australian Impressionism is evocatively represented in the sale by Frederick McCubbin's *Golden Light* 1913 (estimate \$340,000-380,000, lot 22). The broken, stippled brushwork and heightened sense of colour reveal McCubbin's technical virtuosity together with his love of recording the South Yarra Landscape under changing weather conditions.

'Sotheby's Australia maintains its commitment to sourcing and offering only the finest examples of paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Australia's most significant historical, modern and contemporary practitioners,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'This commitment provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to engage with and potentially acquire works for an existing or newly established collection.'

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART

AUCTION IN SYDNEY

118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

27 AUGUST 2013 | 6.30 PM

ESTIMATE \$4,984,000-6,765,000

LOTS ON OFFER: 48

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

15-18 AUGUST 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY

22-26 AUGUST 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM

118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

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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.