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

Melbourne | 03 8416 5999 | Yumeko Leung | yleung@3dm.com.au

Gold Struck at Sotheby's Australia

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART

SYDNEY 27 AUGUST 2013



EDWIN STOCQUELER 1829-1895, *DIGGING FOR GOLD ALONG AN OLD CREEK BED 1877*. ESTIMATE \$60,000-80,000

A rare nineteenth century painting, *Digging for Gold Along an Old Creek Bed* (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 21) by the elusive colonial artist Edwin Stocqueler will be offered for sale at Sotheby's Australia's 27 August 2013 auction in Sydney. A resident and celebrated figure of Bendigo, Stocqueler is best known as an artist of the Australian goldfields.

Stocqueler was born in India in 1829 and later educated in Cambridge. Lured to the Victorian goldfields, Stocqueler and his mother settled in Sandhurst (Bendigo) in 1853. An important but often forgotten colonial painter, Stocqueler's surviving paintings serve as a visual documentation of the colonial period and show specific details of life during the early discovery of gold.

His masterpiece, the 1857 diorama *Golden Land of the Sunny South* was exhibited in the local Mechanics Institute in Bendigo. Reported in the Bendigo Advertiser to be 'one mile long and [comprising] seventy distinct pictures,' the diorama toured Castlemaine, Maldon and Melbourne, exhibiting in the Melbourne Mechanics Institute (currently the Melbourne Athenaeum) on Collins Street in 1859. An 1857 article in the Bendigo Advertiser labelled him as 'an artist and naturalist of considerable merit,' describing 'scene pieces of every variety, including some of the quartz mining works, and some of the best buildings and settlements ... on the various diggings.'

This major piece is now lost, but a small number of Stocqueler's oil paintings and watercolours do survive, including *Digging for Gold Along an Old Creek Bed*. Bearing the date of 1877, the painting serves as an important contemporary record of life on the Sandhurst fields. The overall scene – a creek-bed of alluvial diggings between forested hillsides – is evidently somewhere in the district of Bendigo, its topography being very similar to that depicted in S.T. Gill's lithographs of *Bendigo Creek*, *Iron Bark Gully* and *Eagle Hawk Gully* (1853). *Digging for Gold Along an Old Creek Bed* depicts the mullocky dirt-line of the valley floor, dotted with the ellipses of alluvial mineshafts, while in the foreground a couple of diggers with pan and shovel stand yarning behind a litter of tools.

'*Digging for Gold Along an Old Creek Bed* is an evocative image of industry within the wilderness. Sotheby's Australia is delighted to offer this rare example of Victoria's early gold rush era,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

AT A GLANCE

EDWIN STOCQUELER 1829-1895

DIGGING FOR GOLD ALONG AN OLD CREEK BED 1877

OIL ON CANVAS

61.2 X 51CM

ESTIMATE \$60,000-80,000

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART, SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA
AUCTION IN SYDNEY

118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

27 AUGUST 2013 | 6.30 PM

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

SOTHEBYSAUSTRALIA.COM.AU

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

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

Yumeko Leung | 03 8416 5999 | yleung@3dm.com.au

#