
Melbourne | 03 9509 2900 | John Keats | john.keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au
Melbourne | 03 8416 5999 | Yumeko Leung | yleung@3dm.com.au

Property from the Estate of the Late Dr Jan Altmann

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 26 NOVEMBER 2013



ROY DE MAISTRE 1894-1968, *THE FOOTBALLERS*. ESTIMATE \$80,000-120,000

In November 2013, Sotheby's Australia will offer for sale works of art from **The Estate of the Late Dr Jan Altmann**. Well-known and admired by many, Jan Altmann's collection of paintings by Roy de Maistre and magnificent tapestries were assembled during a lifetime of collecting and reflect her discipline, discernment and commitment to modern Australian art. The works will be included in the sale of Important Australian Art on 26 November 2013, in Melbourne.

Four major compositions by Roy de Maistre are in the sale, including the artist's rare and remarkable *Portrait of Francis Bacon* (1935) (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 1). The painting is an affectionate and revealing image of the renowned British artist early in his career, when de Maistre was mentoring and supporting Bacon to make the transition from interior decorator to painter. De Maistre painted the portrait in 1935 and shows Bacon looking, as de Maistre put it, 'like a somewhat dubious choirboy.' The work was included in *Roy de Maistre: A Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings 1917-1960* held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, in 1960.



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992 & TAPISSERIE D'AUBUSSON, RIVER (1976). ESTIMATE \$50,000-70,000

De Maistre's fine display of synthetic cubist jig-sawry is presented in *The Footballers* (estimate \$80,000-120,000, lot 2, pictured previous) and *Jacob Wrestling the Angel* (1958) (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 4). In stylistic terms, *The Footballers*, disposes the action in front of a flat-abstract background. The figures have a cubist dimension, the profile heads of the two footballers at the right and the strong black shadow lines recall Pablo Picasso's paintings of the 1920s and 1930s. *The Footballers* possibly depicts an incident in the 1937 F.A. Cup Final between Sunderland (in red and white stripes) and Preston North End (white with black striped socks) (Sunderland won 3:1).

Jacob Wrestling the Angel shows a luminously lit winged angel lunging forcefully against Jacob, shadowed and protesting. Its cubist planes and angular dynamics portray a battle between humanity and divinity with the colours balancing to share the turmoil and the essential order. De Maistre effectively combines the power of biblical imagery and modernist savagery. Particularly renowned for his still life and interior subjects, de Maistre is represented in the Altmann Collection with his superb *Studio Interior* (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 3).

Brett Whiteley's *River* 1976 (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 7, pictured) featured in the artist's 1977 exhibition *Rivers*, a thematic collection of riverine landscapes. A rich and luxurious woollen tapestry, the work is numbered one of an edition of six (only three tapestries, however, were realised). Woven by the celebrated Tapisserie d'Aubusson, the home of French tapestry weaving for half a millennium, the workshop produced works on commission by leading international artists such as Jean Lurcat, Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso, as well as prominent Australian artists such as Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan, John Olsen, and John Perceval. Another tapestry from the Altmann Collection is John Perceval's *Fisherman's Inlet* (1975) (estimate \$25,000-35,000, lot 6), the only extant tapestry version of this celebrated composition.

'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the sale of important works from the Estate of the Late Dr Jan Altmann, whose name has been synonymous with collecting only the finest examples of Australian Art for more than half a century,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

AT A GLANCE

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART, SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA
INCLUDING PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF THE LATE DR JAN ALTMANN
AUCTION IN MELBOURNE
ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 1, 4, COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE
26 NOVEMBER 2013 | 6.30 PM

EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY
14-17 NOVEMBER 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM
118-122 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE
21-26 NOVEMBER 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM
ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

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**

#

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