

Melbourne 1 May 2014

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Connoisseurs' Collections for Auction



Grace Cossington Smith 1892-1984, *Gum Blossom* 1945. Estimate \$40,000-50,000

Property from the Estates of the Late John Kingsmill, Dorothy Braund and Alexander Slutzkin will feature in Sotheby's Australia's Important Australian Art sale on 13 May in Sydney. On offer will be oil paintings, watercolours, woodblocks and other works from discerning collectors of fine art. The combined pre-sale estimate of the auction is \$4.9 million to \$6.6 million.

Gum Blossom (1945) by renowned Australian modernist painter, Grace Cossington Smith, (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 1, pictured) is a highlight of the distinguished collection of 10 works offered from the Estate of the late Australian author, John Kingsmill. Exhibited the year it was created in 1945, the painting by one of Australia's most important artists – having been instrumental in introducing Post-Impressionism to Australia – has since remained in private collections. Margaret Olley's *Yellow Room, Evening* (1995) (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 9) is expected to achieve

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impressive results, with Sotheby's Australia having obtained the auction record for Olley in their November 2013 with the sale of *Yellow Room, Afternoon* (1990), for \$158,600 including buyer's premium (estimate \$70,000-90,000). Also offered from Kingsmill's collection are *Basket of Limes* (1965) by Margaret Olley (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 7), and three works by Australian woodblock painter, Cressida Campbell.

The Estate of the Late Dorothy Braund, an artist of early modernism based in the Mornington Peninsula, consists of 10 lots and features Ian Fairweather's *Kneeling Figures* (1951) (estimate \$80,000-100,000, lot 11). It is a haunting painting dating from an unsettled and difficult time in Ian Fairweather's famously difficult life, just prior to his notorious near-suicidal raft voyage to Indonesia in April 1952. Works by Australian-born and internationally acclaimed artist Jeffrey Smart are represented by the *First Oil Sketch for The Picnic (3)* (1979) (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 15) and *Figure Study for the Reservoir, Centennial Park* (1988) (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 18). Both were acquired by Braund from the Australian Galleries in 1981 and 1989 respectively.

From the Estate of the Late Alexander Slutzkin, hotelier and husband to former wartime pin up, the late Joan Bell, and well known to all tax lawyers for the famous Slutzkin scheme, is Sidney Nolan's *Grass Trees* (1948) (estimate \$250,000-350,000, lot 23). The work was included in Nolan's first exhibition of outback pictures at David Jones' Art Gallery, Sydney in March 1949, from which it was acquired by Alexander Slutzkin and subsequently included in the 1987-1988 Nolan retrospective exhibition that toured nationally. Also on offer is Ian Fairweather's *Composition* (1961) (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 24). Exhibited by the Macquarie Galleries in 1961 and acquired by Slutzkin in the same year, the work uses synthetic polymer paint and gouache.

'We are honoured to be entrusted with the sale of esteemed collections from the Estates of the Late Dorothy Braund, John Kingsmill and Alexander Slutzkin. These Estates contain exquisite examples of Australian Art carefully assembled during the course of the collectors' lives' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 13 May 2014, 6.30 pm

InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Exhibition in Melbourne

1-4 May 2014, 10 am to 5 pm

Level 9, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney

8-13 May 2014, 10 am to 5 pm

30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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