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Sotheby's Australia repatriates rare Sidney Nolan painting



Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, *Ned Kelly: Kelly and Horse* (1955). Estimate \$300,000-400,000

Sotheby's Australia will offer Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly: Kelly and Horse* 1955 at its forthcoming Important Australian Art auction in Sydney on 13 May 2014. Nolan's compelling image (estimate \$300,000-400,000, lot 58, pictured) is a striking portrait of Australia's most iconic bushranger. The painting has been in private ownership for nearly 60 years and was acquired by the vendor's family in 1955 in London.

Ned Kelly: Kelly and Horse is from Nolan's highly acclaimed second series of Kelly paintings that were created in London during the winter of 1954-1955. In these images Nolan responded to ancient and contemporary European art and this composition reveals his interest in the marble friezes of classical antiquity. Nolan's solo exhibition in London in 1955 received critical attention and acclaim David Sylvester naming Nolan 'among the half-dozen best painters under forty in the world.' Examples from this series reside in the numerous public collections, including Tate Britain, London; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of

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Western Australia, Perth; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

Ned Kelly: Kelly and Horse was purchased by artist Elsa Barker-Mill on the opening night of Nolan's exhibition at The Redfern Gallery and was included in Nolan's Retrospective exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery, London, in 1957.

'Sotheby's Australia is delighted to repatriate a major work, from arguably the most renowned series produced by an Australian artist, to Australian shores,' said Chairman of Sotheby's Australia, Geoffrey Smith. 'We anticipate great excitement from collectors.'

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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