

Sydney 13 May 2014

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Australian Art on Budget



Tom Roberts 1856-1931, *Miss Minna Simpson* (1886). Sold for \$976,000 May 2014.
Auction Record for the Artist

Exceptional results for colonial, modern and contemporary Australian Art were achieved at Sotheby's Australia's major sale held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 in Sydney. Comprising 101 lots, a total of \$5,569,910 including buyer's premium was sold, or 113.5% by value or 71.3% by volume, with new auction records for 7 artists achieved.

The highly anticipated sale of Tom Roberts' *Miss Minna Simpson* (1886), an uncommissioned portrait of the niece of the artist's then girlfriend and later wife, attracted strong bidding from both room and phone bidders and achieved an artist auction record of \$976,000 (estimate \$300,000-400,000, lot 30, pictured). Initially displayed at the inaugural exhibition of the Australian Artists'

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Association in Melbourne in September 1886, the painting most recently featured in the major Tom Roberts retrospective exhibition that toured Australia in 1996-1997 and remained one of a few major examples by Roberts in private ownership.

From the Abrahams Family Collection, Arthur Streeton's *Palaces in Sunlight* (1908) (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 29) achieved \$219,600, with the winning bidder just the second owner to acquire the painting. It formed part of the renowned collection of Australian art assembled by Melbourne's Abrahams family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although their collections were largely dispersed across two sales in 1919, *Palaces in Sunlight* was retained by Mrs Laurence Abrahams and remained in her family until the present time.

The strongly contested Property from the Estate of the Late John Kingsmill, achieved outstanding results, with all items from the collection sold. Margaret Olley's *Yellow Room, Evening* (1995) was a highlight, selling for \$97,600 against a presale estimate of \$60,000-80,000 (lot 9). An auction record was achieved for Cressida Campbell's *Through the Window* (1984) selling for \$48,800 against a pre-sale estimate of \$12,000-16,000 (lot 10). Property from the Estate of the Late Dorothy Braund also achieved a 100 per cent clearance rate with the majority exceeding estimates or achieving results closer to the high estimate. Ian Fairweather's *Kneeling Figures* (1951) sold for an impressive \$115,900 (estimate \$80,000-100,000, lot 11).

Eliza Point showing Captain Piper's Naval Villa and Garden (circa 1820) achieved an auction record for Joseph Lycett with the only known watercolour of Sydney Harbour in private ownership by the artist selling for \$219,600 (estimate \$100,000-150,000, lot 93). Other artist auction records achieved include Helen Ogilvie's *Boundary Rider's Hut, Wagga, NSW* 1973 selling for \$9,394 (lot 20), Petrina Hicks' *Shenae and Jade* (2005) at \$14,640 (lot 48), Linde Ivimey's *Buck* (2009) sold to a telephone for \$31,720 (lot 79) and William Andrews' *Double Bay, Sydney* (1870) which sold for \$14,030.

'Impressive results have been achieved by Sotheby's Australia, with record results achieved for colonial, modern and contemporary Australian Art, reflecting our commitment to presenting well-curated and researched sales,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'It is through our diverse national and international reach that we can achieve such strong results for Australia's finest and most significant practitioners.'

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 13 May 2014, 6.30 pm

InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 101

Total sold: \$5,569,910

Sold by volume: 71.29%

Sold by value: 113.5%

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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