

Melbourne 29 July 2014

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Smart Find: A Road of Discovery



Jeffrey Smart 1921-2013, *Radial Road* (1972). Estimate \$500,000-700,000

One of Jeffrey Smart's most significant works, *Radial Road* (1972) (estimate \$500,000-700,000, lot 31, pictured), has been re-discovered in a private collection in Sydney and will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia on 26 August 2014 as part of its forthcoming Important Australian & International Art sale. The painting has not been seen by the public since it was first exhibited and acquired by the present owner more than 40 years ago.

One of Australia's most influential artists of the past century, Jeffrey Smart (1921-2013) was born in Adelaide and trained at the South Australian School of Arts, before working as an art teacher from 1942-1947. It was during this time that Smart started painting the industrial landscapes of Adelaide, establishing the distinct style and subject matter he is so well known for today. Smart went on to

study in France at La Grande Chaumière and the Académie Montmartre, after which he spent much of his time living and working overseas.

Smart's preoccupation with the urban and built environment is exemplified in *Radial Road*, which shows an expansive highway with three trucks backgrounded by a stretch of apartment blocks. A human figure on the left of the frame looks on, creating a sense of emptiness and highlighting the dystopian reality often identified in Smart's work. *Radial Road* is the precursor to Smart's iconic compositions *Truck and Trailer Approaching a City* (1973, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney) and *The Guiding Spheres II (Homage to Cezanne)* (1979-1980, Private Collection).

Radial Road was created during a high-point in Smart's career and its re-emergence further consolidates his unique contribution to the history and development of Australian art.

'Sotheby's Australia is delighted to have re-discovered a masterpiece by one of Australia's most critically acclaimed and widely admired artists that has remained hidden from public view since the time of its creation,' says Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'The re-emergence of this highly describable and iconic painting is set to create enormous interest amongst cutators and collectors.'

AT A GLANCE

JEFFREY SMART 1921-2013

Radial Road (1972)

oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm

Estimate \$500,000-700,000

Important Australian & International Art
Auction in Sydney, 26 August 2014, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, Fort Macquarie Room
117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Exhibition in Melbourne
14-17 August, 10 am to 5 pm
Level 9, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney
21-26 August, 10 am to 5 pm
30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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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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