

Melbourne 16 April 2015

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Boyd Masterpiece for Auction

Important Australian Art, Auction in Sydney 28 April



ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999, *Bride in a Cup* (1959). Estimate \$650,000-850,000

ARTHUR BOYD'S *Bride in a Cup* (1959) (estimate \$650,000-850,000 lot 73, pictured) is anticipated to generate strong bidding interest at Sotheby's Australia's auction of *Important Australian Art* to be held in Sydney on 28 April 2015. The painting forms part of Boyd's extraordinary 'Love, Marriage and Death of a Half-Caste' series, whose themes were later extended as the 'Bride' series. Sotheby's Australia established the current auction record for the artist in August 2012 with *Bride Running Away* (1957) achieving \$1,680,000 and the previous artist record was also held by Sotheby's Australia with the sale of *Frightened Bridegroom* (1958) for \$1,200,000 in August 2011, both from this series.

The 'Bride' series was recently celebrated in Heide Museum of Modern Art's exhibition *Arthur Boyd: Brides* that assembled 50 paintings and works on paper and proved as equally astonishing today as when they were first exhibited. Following the exhibition, Sotheby's Australia was entrusted with *Bride in a Cup* (1959) that has been in a Sydney private collection since 1994.

Arthur Boyd's inspiration for the 'Bride' series was his visit to Alice Springs in 1951, with his first close and extended encounter with the Central Australian desert and with the socio-economic degradation of the Indigenous Australians. Boyd is noted as saying 'I had, prior to my trip, only seen one Aboriginal, a chap around Melbourne who played a gumleaf ... I was quite unprepared for the Simpson Desert and seeing people living like that ... My contact with Aborigines was not close at all, but was close enough to know that it wasn't right.'

While the catalyst for the painting *Bride in a Cup* (1959) is from Boyd's Central Australian trip, the whole seduction-rejection story is played out against a landscape background of undulating and thickly wooded hills that clearly owe something to Boyd's slightly earlier Berwick and Murrumbidgee compositions.

'Sotheby's Australia has achieved world record prices for Arthur Boyd for images that articulate the artists deep concern for the social, political and psychological complexities that faced Indigenous Australians during the 1950s' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'Boyd's personal history and iconography are graphically displayed within *Bride in a Cup* (1959)'.

AT A GLANCE

ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999

Bride in a Cup (1959)

oil on muslin on composition board

90.5 x 120 cm

Estimate \$650,000-850,000

The David Clarke AO Collection of Australian Art, lots 1-43 | Estimate \$4,035,000-5,605,000

Important Australian Art, lots 44-111 | Estimate \$5,043,000-6,711,000

Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 28 April 2015, 6.30 pm

Total estimate \$9,078,000 to \$12,316,000

Exhibition in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 15-19 April, 10 am to 5 pm

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra, 23-28 April, 10 am to 5 pm

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