

Melbourne 25 February 2015

John Keats 03 9508 9900
John.Keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Sarah Carroll 03 8416 5999
SCarroll@3dm.com.au

Art from the Collection of an Eminent Australian

The David Clarke AO Collection of Australian Art, Auction in Sydney 28 April



JOHN BRACK 1920-1999, *First Daughter* 1955. Estimate \$550,000-750,000

One of the most significant private collections of Australian art assembled in recent decades will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia in Sydney on 28 April. With over 40 paintings, sculpture and works on paper, *The David Clarke AO Collection of Australian Art* comprises important works from colonial through to modern and contemporary Australian artists with an estimated value up to \$5.6 million.

1 | Sotheby's Australia is a trade mark used under licence from Sotheby's. Second East Auction Holdings Pty Ltd is independent of the Sotheby's Group. The Sotheby's Group is not responsible for the acts or omissions of Second East Auction Holdings Pty Ltd

The late David Clarke AO, was a banker, philanthropist and visionary who strove for excellence in his areas of interest that traversed business, sport and the arts. He regularly scoured the world's universities for the best financial talent to place into Macquarie Bank (later Macquarie Group) that transformed the organisation into one of the most successful Australian financial institutions.

David Clarke's connoisseurship is reflected in his collection of historical, modern and contemporary Australian Art and its focus on procuring only the finest examples available. The focus of the collection is the outstanding group of paintings and sculptures by Australia's leading practitioners of the mid to late 20th century. Celebrated works by Russell Drysdale, Donald Friend, Sidney Nolan, John Olsen, Lloyd Rees, Jeffrey Smart, Brett Whiteley and Fred Williams are included together with major contemporary works by Peter Booth, Bronwyn Oliver, and William Robinson. A highlight is the re-emergence of John Brack's *First Daughter* 1955, a pivotal work in the artist's career that has not been seen by the broader public since it was exhibited by the artist almost 60 years ago.

David Clarke maintained a unique ethos in amassing wealth while continuing to support charities and cultural organisations for the benefit of others. David Clarke ensured that The Macquarie Group contributed back to the community with the same level of enthusiasm as to its shareholders. Through its philanthropic division, Macquarie Bank has donated almost AU\$150 million to various charities and cultural organisations.

David Clarke was personally involved for many years with the Salvation Army and its Red Shield Appeal, helped build the Children's Cancer Institute into a globally recognised cancer research unit, and through his passion for rugby union assisted in developing the sport's high professional standards recognised today. Since 1999, Clarke re-engineered the finances of a then-struggling Opera Australia by introducing US-style philanthropy and established a capital fund that allows the opera company to survive on dividends.

David Clarke's significant contributions to Australian business and the broader community was recognised in 1992 when he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and in 2001 he received the Centenary Medal for service to Australian.

'Sotheby's Australia is particularly honoured to be entrusted with *The David Clarke AO Collection of Australian Art* and to share the passion of such an eminent Australian,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'Every day I am reminded of something from David Clarke's legacy that has either enriched or assisted in securing the future of Australian organisations.'

AT A GLANCE

The David Clarke AO Collection of Australian Art
Auction in Sydney, 28 April 2015, 6.30 pm
Estimate \$4.03 to \$5.60 million

Exhibition in Melbourne, 15-19 April, 10 am to 5 pm
Exhibition in Sydney, 23-28 April, 10 am to 5 pm

Images are available upon request
All catalogues are available online at sothebysaustralia.com.au