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Local Success for Sale with Global Reach

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Including Property from the Minter Ellison Collection, Sydney

Auction in Sydney 21 July 2015



AKIO MAKIGAWA 1948-1999, *Wisdom of Water* (1995).
Sold for \$109,800 July 2015. Auction record for the artist.

(2001) selling for \$31,720. Akio Makigawa's *Wisdom of Water* (1995) realised 109,800 (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 23, pictured). Other contemporary artist auction records included Nell at \$4,880 and Anne Zahalka at \$12,810.

'Minter Ellison's intelligent and tightly curated collection generated an inspiring response from local and international collectors. We experienced clients bidding from all corners of Australia as well as Asia, Europe and the United States of America', said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

Following the highly attended exhibition of Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design at Sotheby's Australia's three exhibition spaces on Queen Street, Woollahra, the auction opened to a full saleroom at the InterContinental Sydney. Over 300 people registered to bid from all corners of the globe. Comprising 335 lots, the auction achieved a total of \$1.5 million including buyer's premium against an estimate of \$1.1-1.6 million, with 69% sold by volume and 135% by value.

Strong prices were achieved for Contemporary Australian Art, commencing with property from the Minter Ellison Collection, Sydney. An impressive selection of Australian photography and art, including works by Adam Cullen, Max Dupain, Bill Henson, Akio Makigawa, Rosemary Laing, Robert MacPherson, Tracey Moffatt and Patricia Piccinini, generated strong interest and established four new artist auction records.

Rosemary Laing's 2014 record was not only broken once at \$30,500, but in 30 seconds, broken a second time, with *Groundspeed (Red Piazza) #2*

Established in 1827, Minter Ellison is one of the Asia Pacific's leading law firms. Most of the Sydney collection was assembled in 2001 when Minter Ellison moved into Aurora Place, Sydney. Comprising 56 lots, the collection achieved 146% by value and realised \$489,586.

With interest from Asia and America Le Pho's (*Devant la Fenetre*) was well contested, with a result of \$41,480 (estimate \$35,000-45,000, lot 94). A Vietnamese artist, Le Pho was awarded a scholarship and trained at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. His scenes of Vietnam, still life with flowers, family settings and portraits, were influenced by Impressionism and Surrealism.



A gilt bronze figure of Bhaisiyajaguru, (Medicine Buddha), Tibet, 17th/18th century. Sold for \$26,840 July 2015.

From Tibet, a 17th/18th century gilt bronze figure of Bhaisiyajaguru (Medicine Buddha) created a flurry of bidding in the auction room and via the internet and telephones. Quadrupling the high estimate of \$6,000 the bronze figure sold for \$26,840 (lot 228).

Other Asian Art highlights include; a Chinese embroidered silk three-panel hardwood screen selling for over double the high estimate for \$39,040 (estimate \$12,000-16,000, lot 208), and a Ming dynasty 'Longquan' celadon garden seat with a frieze of Buddhist lions among flowering stems and cloud scrolls was vigorously pursued and acquired by a room bidder for \$34,160 (estimate \$3,000-5,000, lot 127).

A stand-out result amongst the furniture was an Australian cedar glazed bookcase, circa 1850 with provenance previously from the Clifford Craig Collection achieving \$15,860 (estimate \$4,000-6,000, lot 274). A Charles and Ray Eames 670 lounge chair and 671 ottoman, designed in 1956 was perused by telephone, absentee and internet bidders coming to rest at \$5,124 with an internet bidder (estimate \$2,500-3,000, lot 288).

Selling to a telephone bidder for \$31,720, a fine sterling silver soup tureen by Paul Storr, London dated 1820 concluded the evening's sale (estimate \$20,000-25,000, lot 335) Storr's reputation rests on his mastery of the grandiose neo-Classical style developed in the Regency period.

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Including Property from the Minter Ellison Collection, Sydney

Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 21 July 2015, 6 pm

Lots on offer: 335

Total sold \$1,514,667 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 68.96%

Sold by value: 135.33%

World auction records were set for the following artists;

- ROSEMARY LAING, born 1959, *Groundspeed (Red Piazza) #2* (2001), Type C photograph
Sold for \$31,710 (estimate \$8,000-12,000, lot 37)
- AKIO MAKIGAWA 1948-1999, *Wisdom of Water* (1995), Statuario marble and Carrara white marble
Sold for \$109,800 (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 23)
- NELL, born 1975, *Untitled* 2001, cork, sequins, pins and acrylic paint on composition board
Sold for \$4,880 (estimate \$4,000-6,000, lot 27)
- ANNE ZAHALKA, born 1957, *Cole Classic* (1998), Type C photograph
Sold for \$12,810 (estimate \$6,000-8,000, lot 53)

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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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