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Jeffrey Smart's *Morning Practice, Baia* Poised for Auction

Important Australian Art, Auction in Sydney 25 August 2015



JEFFREY SMART 1921-2013, *Morning Practice, Baia* (1969). Estimate \$550,000-750,000

‘ONE OF MY BEST PAINTINGS EVER.’ One of Jeffrey Smart’s most sophisticated and finest compositions is poised for sale at Sotheby’s Australia’s 25 August auction of Important Australian Art. Held in an international private collection for over 40 years *Morning Practice, Baia* (1969) was acquired from the Leicester Galleries, London, in 1970 (estimate \$550,000-750,000, pictured).

Prominently discussed in the major books and catalogues on Jeffrey Smart, the painting returned briefly to Australia in 2012 to feature in the exhibition *Master of Stillness: Jeffrey Smart Paintings 1940-2011* where it was reproduced on the catalogue cover and was received with great acclaim. Barry Pearce commented in the exhibition catalogue ‘this disarmingly simple work holds a central position within the entire span of Smart’s painting career... *Morning Practice, Baia* is an essential

image of the artist himself. A man practises with geometry, fascinated by its capacity to measure the meaning of existence, whilst enjoying life-enhancing sunlight illuminating the modern walls of what used to be an ancient fleshpot of the Roman Empire on the Bay of Naples.'

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Following its acclaimed inclusion in the exhibition *Master of Stillness: Jeffrey Smart Paintings 1940-2011*, the painting returned to the United States of America. *Morning Practice, Baia* has now been repatriated to Australia where it will be offered for auction for the first time in its history and represents a remarkable opportunity for collectors who have patiently waited for this precise moment to occur.'

Sotheby's Australia recent sales of paintings by Jeffrey Smart include *The Bicycle Race (Death of Morandi)* 1966 for \$512,400 in April 2015, *Radial Road* (1972) for \$610,000 and *The Red Warehouse* (2003) for \$878,400, both in August 2014.

AT A GLANCE

JEFFREY SMART 1921-2013
Morning Practice, Baia (1969)
oil on canvas
58 x 82 cm
Estimate \$550,000-750,000

Important Australian Art
Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 25 August 2015, 6.30 pm

Exhibition in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 13-16 August, 10 am to 5 pm
Exhibition in Sydney, 30 Queen Street, Woollahra, 20-25 August, 10 am to 5 pm

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