

Melbourne 18 June 2015

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

Rebecca Amos 03 8416 5999
RAmos@3dm.com.au

Arthur Streeton's *Point Piper* Re-emerges for Auction after Almost a Century

Important Australian Art, Auction in Sydney 25 August 2015



ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943, *Point Piper* (1907). Estimate \$100,000-150,000

A rare Sydney Harbour painting by Arthur Streeton will be offered for auction for the first time in almost 100 years by Sotheby's Australia on the 25 August 2015. Consigned from collection of the late Mary, Lady Downer, *Point Piper* (1907) was originally acquired directly from the artist by Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer – Streeton's greatest private patron. Last offered for auction in 1919 it was purchased by Lady Downer's grandparents, Tom Elder Barr Smith and Mary Barr Smith for 100 gns. *Point Piper*'s pre-sale estimate is \$100,000-150,000.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Streeton's 1907 panels of Sydney Harbour are amongst the most highly sought after images of Australian Art. We are honoured to be entrusted with a work from this series from such a distinguished collection that has never previously been reproduced.'

Painted in 1907, *Point Piper* belongs to Arthur Streeton's most sustained and celebrated series of Sydney Harbour subjects completed on the artist's return visit to Australia. During the months of July and August 1907 the artist created approximately 35 Harbour scenes of which 33 were painted on drapers' panels, measuring almost 20.0 x 70.0 cm.

Streeton responded with renewed vigour to the elongated format that allowed him to record the changing Sydney skyline. In a letter to Tom Roberts in 1907, Streeton wrote 'Sydney's interest is for me all in its surroundings – its fascinating, warm grey sky, & yellow rock & purple sea & long, undulating shore lines & luxurious languor of expression; its semi-Eastern - & there's some chord for that in most of us.' Several of Streeton's images were painted from the homes of friends and patrons and indicated the artist's increasing popularity as one of Australia's leading artists.

Streeton's coastal subjects included Bronte, Coogee, Cremorne, Darling Point, Double Bay, Mosman, Neutral Bay, Rose Bay, and Sirius Cove. The present work is the only recorded example titled *Point Piper*.

For Streeton, the coast – where land meets water and sky – became a subject imbued with a particular resonance; a place where various elements conspired to provide a continual source of fascination and inspiration. As an artist who painted in the open air, Streeton allowed the spectacle of nature to define his compositions and the coastline presented him with the greatest opportunity to record the power, force and beauty of the natural world. Streeton combined his plein-airist technique with his deep-felt emotional responses to his environment and therefore recorded what he saw with a mixture of accuracy and imagination. His interest in providing lively commentaries of some of Australia's most renowned coastal sites was often complimented by the desire to articulate his feelings towards himself and others.

Works from the 1907 series are held in the public collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Bendigo Art Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria, and Queensland Art Gallery.

AT A GLANCE

ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943

Point Piper (1907)

oil on wood panel

17.6 x 66.3 cm

Estimate \$100,000-150,000

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

For More News on Sotheby's Australia

VISIT sothebysaustralia.com.au/articles/press

FOLLOW twitter.com/sothebysAUST

JOIN facebook.com/sothebysaustralia

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

Images are available upon request

All catalogues are available online at sothebysaustralia.com.au