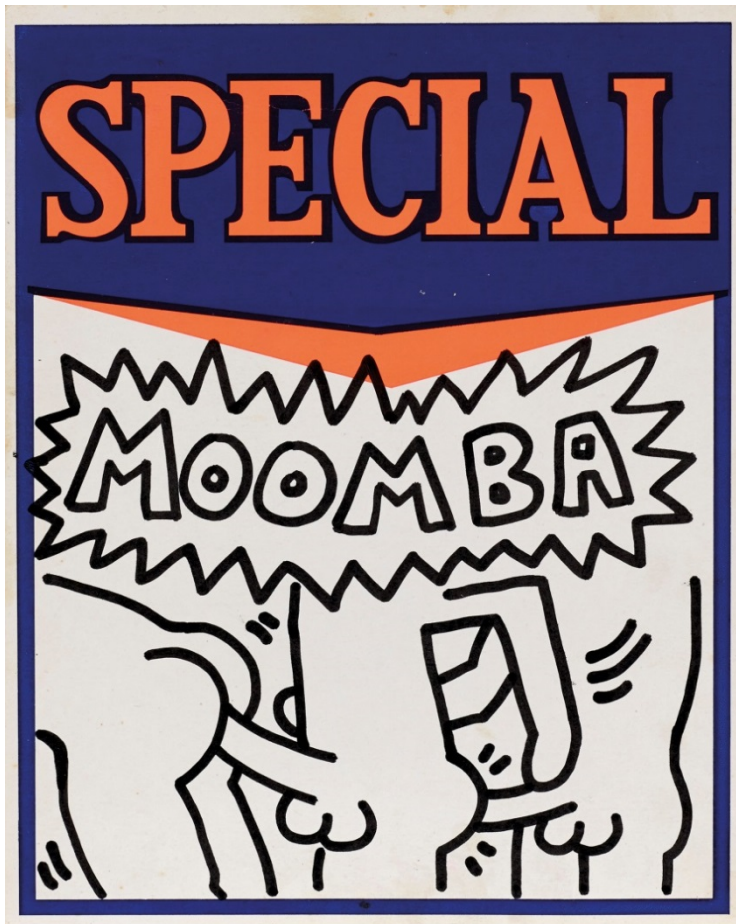


Melbourne 9 October 2015

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Keith Haring's Moomba Moment

Fine Asian Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney 27 October 2015



KEITH HARING 1958-1990, *Special Moomba* 1984. Estimate \$20,000-30,000

An urban legend exists regarding the definitions of Moomba which include; 'let's get together and have fun' to 'up your bum'. Included in Sotheby's Australia's forthcoming Sydney sale of *Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* on 27 October 2015 is Keith Haring's *Special Moomba* 1984 – which has embraced wholeheartedly these meanings.

Special Moomba 1984 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 169, pictured) was created during Keith Haring's visit to Melbourne where he completed a series of public works including a design on the water-window at the National Gallery of Victoria (since removed) and a mural on the wall of the Collingwood Technical College (now Circus Oz headquarters). The Collingwood mural is widely considered to be a significant part of Melbourne's cultural history.

Haring was a ground-breaking street artist inspired by social activism and progressive politics, spanning anti-war protests and environmental destruction, through to his identity as an openly gay man in the 1980s. In the late 1970s he gained a reputation in New York for his chalk drawings on the walls of subway stations. What followed were murals, works on paper, paintings, prints and sculptures all emblazoned with the symbols and messages of New York city's street art and graffiti. Though his subject matter was at times aggressively serious, Haring's jubilant shapes running, hugging and dancing gave much of his work a level of friendly accessibility.

As an artist in great demand, with exhibitions and projects scheduled in New York, London and Kassel, it took some convincing to encourage Haring to visit Melbourne in 1984. It was described in an ABC interview about Haring in Australia, that he took some time acclimatising – ‘like all New Yorkers, Keith was a fish out of water when he first arrived,’ however over the month he was here he was incredibly generous with his time.

‘Sotheby’s Australia is honoured to be entrusted with this unique image of Melbourne, produced by one of the most influential international artists of the late 20th century,’ said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia. ‘*Special Moomba* play’s on our local legend to the meaning of Moomba.’

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 27 October 2015, 6 pm
Total lots 347 | Total estimate \$1,217,900 to \$1,750,150

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra, 22-27 October, 10 am to 5 pm

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