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Visionary Masterpiece for Auction

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 24 November 2015



FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982, *Trees and Hillside* 1964. Estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000

One of the most significant paintings by Fred Williams remaining in private ownership will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 24 November at the InterContinental Sydney. *Trees and Hillside* 1964 (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000 lot 15, pictured) is a landmark work which signalled a new development in Williams's iconography.

Geoffrey Smith commented: '*Trees and Hillside* was acquired by the present owners in 1967 and emerges for auction for the first time in its history. The painting was purchased from its inaugural exhibition at Rudy Komon Art Gallery in 1964 by art collector and dealer Kym Bonython. Painted in Upwey, Victoria, *Trees and Hillside* reflects the aspect of Williams's new studio, where he looked up into a horizon from the valley below. A companion work *Hillside* 1964 was sold at Sotheby's Australia in May 2007 setting the then artist auction record of \$1.8 million.'

Since their creation in 1964, Fred Williams 'Trees' and 'Hillside' compositions have been acclaimed by critics, historians and collectors as representing a defining moment in the history and development of Australian art. As James Gleeson would later comment 'The rarest of artists are the ones who see the familiar things as no one has previously seen them, and who, in setting down their vision, reshape our world for us.'



FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982, *Trees on Hillside II*
1964. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Purchased, 1965

AT A GLANCE

FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982

Trees and Hillside 1964

oil and tempera on composition board

91.5 x 122 cm

Estimate \$1,000, 000-1,200,000

Important Australian Art

Auction at InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 24 November 2015, 6.30 pm

Total estimate \$7,575,000 to \$9,905,000 | Total lots 93

Exhibition in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 12-15 November, 10 am to 5 pm

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra, 19-24 November, 10 am to 5 pm

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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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