

Melbourne 17 March 2016

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

Racing Start to Year

Fine Asian Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Melbourne 6 April 2016



The 1899 Melbourne Cup Trophy comprising a silver presentation tray together with a tea and coffee service, Walter, Michael, John, Stanley Barnard with Robert Dubock, tray London 1896 and service London, 1898. Estimate \$60,000-80,000.

A remarkable collection of arts and design from Asia, Australia and Europe will feature in Sotheby's Australia's 6 April Auction in Melbourne. With an estimate range of \$1.3 to 1.9 million, the sale offers a wide selection of art, decorative arts and design objects from the 17th century to contemporary. Featured are superb bronzes, carvings and ceramics from Asia, and a diverse selection of Australian and European art, furniture and silver. Included in the sale are works from prominent private collections and a highlight includes the 1899 Melbourne Cup Trophy won by Merriwee.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Our talented specialists have amassed a remarkable collection which offers both the seasoned and new collector a range of objects of varying forms from over the centuries. The sale presents a myriad of possibilities to combine historic and contemporary arts and design and create a timeless aesthetic.'

One hundred and seventeen years after it was awarded, the 1899 Melbourne Cup Trophy will be presented by Sotheby's Australia for auction. Held in the same private collection for over 80 years, the trophy was first awarded to Mr Herbert Power in 1899 for the Melbourne Cup win by Merriwee. Comprising a silver presentation tray together with a tea and coffee service, the trophy's original value was 100 sovereigns and will be auctioned with an estimate of \$60,000-80,000 (lot 190, pictured previous). Continuing with the racing theme, the racing silks and cap worn by Glen Boss will interest punters of Makybe Diva (estimate \$2,000-3,000, lot 191).



An Indian bronze dancing figure of Shiva Nataraj circa 18th/19th century. Estimate \$12,000-18,000



LEE MAN FONG 1913-1988, *Four Goldfish*. Estimate \$40,000-60,000

The sale commences with a remarkable selection of Asian works of art including an Indian bronze dancing figure of Shiva Nataraj which is elegantly cast and posed from the 18th/19th Century (estimate \$12,000-18,000, lot 70, pictured). The figure is an iconic image in Hindu art, with this work illustrating Shiva performing the Tandava, the dance of bliss. The sale also includes many fine examples of Chinese bronzes and enamelware. A Chinese cloisonné enamel moonflask from the late Qing dynasty features a red dragon clasping a flaming pearl, and stands upon a sea of crested waves (estimate \$12,000-16,000, lot 69).

Exceptional examples of Asian watercolours and oil paintings are prominent in the sale including a work by Lee Man Fong (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 28, pictured). Featuring four gold fish the scene is tranquil, looking through the water observing the various beautiful sides of the fish. Lee was born in China and moved as a young child to Singapore. His relocation to Java in the 1930s influenced his visual language, and established his creative legacy. Lee Man Fong's oeuvre is reflective of his Chinese ancestry, his art references the techniques and cultural aesthetics imbedded in classical Chinese painting.

From Indonesia is a surrealist style painting by Ivan Sagito (born 1957). Sagito is an introverted and mysterious artist who endeavours to depict the uncertainties of everyday life and the inner conflicts people face. *Spiritual Bridge* 1982 elegantly captures this journey and tension (estimate \$25,000-35,000, lot 189, pictured).



IVAN SAGITO, born 1957, *Spiritual Bridge* 1982. Estimate \$25,000-35,000

A rare opportunity to see highlights of Australia's colonial past in art and design is afforded at the April sale. *Ausblick Tamerinden Bei Paestum Sumpfe* (circa 1880) an oil painting by Eugene von



EUGENE VON GUÉRARD 1811-1901, *Ausblick Tamerinden Bei Paestum Sümpfe* (circa 1880). Estimate \$40,000-60,000.
A colonial double ended cedar settee, circa 1845.
Estimate \$2,000-3,000

Guérard depicts grazing cattle on the edge of a swamp (estimate \$40,000-80,000, lot 131, pictured) and to complement this is a double ended cedar settee, circa 1845 upholstered in dark green horsehair fabric (estimate 2,000-3,000, lot 192, pictured).

A set of Indian silver plates by Barton of Bangalore (circa 1959) were formerly in the collection of Nizam Barkat Ali Khan Mukarram Jah Asaf Jah VIII (estimate \$7,000-12,000, lot 288, pictured). Mukarram Jah is the titular Nizam of Hyderabad, and is purported to have been the richest man in India until the 1980s, however in the 1990s most of his ancestral wealth and assets were lost through legal disputes and divorce settlements. In an Australian connection, Mukarram Jah left Hyderabad in 1973 to settle on a sheep farm outside of Perth, Western Australia.

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design Auction in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 6 April 2016, 6 pm

Exhibition in Melbourne, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 31 March – 5 April, 10 am to 5 pm

Lots on offer 301
Estimated value \$1,369,400–1,949,100



A set of twenty four Indian silver plates, Barton of Bangalore, circa 1959. Estimate \$7,000-12,000

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