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SAVILL

THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC

Sotheby's Australia to auction works of art from the 'Private' and 'Public' Collections of Denis Savill, of Savill Galleries

One of the finest collections of Australian Art to be auctioned in recent years, the sale includes major examples by Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman, Donald Friend, Sidney Nolan, Jeffrey Smart and Fred Williams.



Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, *River-Bank* 1964. Estimate \$600,000-900,000

On 10 May Sotheby's Australia will host an exceptional sale of Australian Art from the private and gallery collection of one of Australia's most significant and influential art dealers, Denis Savill. Recently Denis Savill celebrated his 75th birthday and has announced he will be retiring at the end of 2016.

The name Savill is inextricably linked with the history of traditional, modern and contemporary Australian Art. For 35 years, Savill Galleries has specialised in buying and selling major Australian paintings. Denis Savill's extensive knowledge of and expertise in the art market has made him one of the most respected and well-known art dealers in the country. Savill Galleries has hosted over 100 catalogued exhibitions, including a variety of solo and survey exhibitions, as well as numerous mixed artist shows and events.

After several years as a private dealer, Denis Savill acquired Gordon Marsh Gallery in Double Bay in 1981 and very quickly established his reputation. In 1982 he achieved a record price of \$350,000 for a painting sold in Australia and acquired Frederick McCubbin's *Hauling Timber, Mount Macedon* for in excess of \$100,000 in the following year. In 1984 the business was renamed Savill Galleries, and a year later was relocated to



Charles Blackman, born 1928, *The Ceremony* 1959.
Estimate \$250,000-300,000

its present site in Hargrave Street, Paddington. In 1998 Savill Galleries expanded its operations in Melbourne and hosted numerous memorable exhibitions.



Arthur Boyd 1920-1999, *Bride over Shoalhaven*.
Estimate \$14,000-18,000

Denis Savill is perhaps most known for his passionate devotion as collector, supporter, and advocate of Arthur Boyd. The forthcoming auction includes numerous examples that defined the artist's career. In 1993 Barry Humphries opened Boyd's major exhibition at Savill Galleries, with both Arthur Boyd and Yvonne Boyd present. Seven works from the show were later loaned to the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the touring *Arthur Boyd Retrospective*.

Savill's dedicated and long-standing support of Australian artists also included Ray Croke, Robert Dickerson, Donald Friend, James Gleeson, Margaret Olley, Lin Onus, Sidney Nolan, Garry Shead, Jeffrey Smart, and Brett Whiteley.



Barry Humphries, Denis Savill and Arthur Boyd at Savill Galleries 1993 exhibition of Arthur Boyd's work.

Commenting on the forthcoming auction, **Denis Savill** said: *'The sale marks a new chapter, as I divest my gallery inventory and major works from my private collection. The sale includes a number of paintings never previously offered to the public and held in my personal collection.'*

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: *'Savill Galleries has been instrumental in shaping the Australian art industry. Denis is a towering figure and dominant market force who has facilitated the broadest appreciation of Australian art at a national and international level. His clients have included the most significant private, corporate and public collectors and he has supported the careers of many of Australia's most important and beloved artists. Denis formed close relationships with many artists and promoted their work beyond the primary market. He led the secondary market and gained a reputation for his passion, faith and commitment to those he considered as the leaders in Australian art.'*



Arthur Boyd 1920-1999, *Shoalhaven* (1978).
Estimate \$90,000-110,000

AT A GLANCE

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art
Auction in Sydney, 10 May 2016, 6.30pm

Exhibition in Melbourne 28 April – 1 May, 10 am to 5 pm

Exhibition in Sydney 5-10 May, 10 am to 5 pm

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