

Sydney 10 May 2016

John Keats 0412 132 520
John.Keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Outstanding Results for Renowned Art Dealer's Collection

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art | Auction in Sydney 10 May 2016



Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, *River-Bank* 1964. Sold for \$1,647,000 May 2016

10 MAY – Outstanding results were achieved at Sotheby's Australia's first night of Australian Art sales with *The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art* selling for \$5,355,678 including buyer's premium, with 86.7% sold by volume and 183.8% sold by value. 'For almost 40 years, Denis Savill and Savill Galleries has played a vital role in the Australian art market and Sotheby's Australia was honoured to be entrusted with the sale of *The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art*' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia.

Auctioneer Martin Gallon opened the sale with a rousing start as the first lot, Arthur Boyd's *Bride over Shoalhaven* sold for \$53,680 to a telephone bidder (estimate \$14,000-18,000, lot 1). Shortly thereafter, Brett Whiteley's *Preliminary Idea for Very Large Plum and Ultramarine Vase or Pot* 1976 realised \$122,000 (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 12).

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Sidney Nolan's much admired *River-Bank* 1964 sold for 2.7 times the low estimate for \$1,647,000 (estimate \$600,000-900,000, lot 40, pictured previous) establishing the highest price for an Australian work of art sold at auction in 2016. The painting belongs to a group of large-scale compositions of Ned Kelly that Nolan produced between October and December 1964 and remains one of the most satisfying and lyrical images of the outlaw firmly located within the Australian landscape that the artist produced.

Charles Blackman's majestic and tender *The Ceremony* 1959 garnered strong attention during the exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney. Telephone bidding was fierce and the work achieved \$610,000 (estimate \$250,000-300,000, lot 29) 240% higher than it realised at auction in 2014. Sotheby's Australia's meticulous research reinstated the paintings original title and extensive exhibition history and literature.



CHARLES BLACKMAN, born 1928, *The Ceremony* 1959. Sold for \$610,000 May 2016

Auction records were achieved for the following artists; Phillip Lee, Gray Smith and Joshua Smith.

AT A GLANCE

The Denis Savill Collection of Australian Art
Auction in Sydney, 10 May 2016, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 120
Total sold \$5,355,678 including buyer's premium
Sold by volume: 86.67%
Sold by value: 183.79%

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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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