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# Australian Painting from One of the World's Greatest Collectors Offered for Auction

Important Australian & International Art | Auction in Sydney 11 May 2016



Roy de Maistre 1894-1968, *The Studio Table* 1928. Estimate \$60,000-80,000

A painting from the collection of one of world's most renowned art collectors and patrons will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 11 May at the InterContinental Sydney. Roy de Maistre's *The Studio Table* 1928 was owned by Samuel Courtauld founder of The Courtauld Institute of Art and The Courtauld Gallery, and donor of acquisition funds for the Tate, London and National Gallery, London. De Maistre was one of Australia's early pioneers of modern art and *The Studio Table* (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 127, pictured) provides a unique insight into the studio environment of one of Anglo-Australia's greatest artists.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with this significant painting by Roy de Maistre from The Samuel Courtauld Collection. De Maistre's works are complex in origins and intricate in construction. Mentor to the young Francis Bacon, De Maistre remains one of Australia's most influential and enigmatic artists, whose unique contribution to the development of modern art in Australia and Great Britain is still to be fully understood and appreciated.'

A leading exponent of Modernism and Abstraction in Australia, *The Studio Table* was the highlight of Roy de Maistre's solo exhibition in Sydney in 1928. Striking colour and bold brushwork create an intimate yet lively study of the artist's studio located in Burdekin House, Macquarie Street, Sydney where paint brushes, a soda syphon, bottles, jugs and plates are arranged in an impromptu manner.



Roy de Maistre 1894-1968, *Still Life, with Fruit* (1945). Estimate \$45,000-65,000

De Maistre's first major patrons, and most long standing, were Sydney Courtauld and her husband Rab Butler with Sydney later introducing the artist to her father Samuel Courtauld. De Maistre became a travelling companion and confidant to Samuel Courtauld whom he accompanied on art buying trips to the continent. Samuel Courtauld's collection of masterpieces by Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin, Amadeo Modigliani, Édouard Manet, Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh form the nucleus of The Courtauld Gallery in London.

Important Australian & International Art also features Roy de Maistre's *Still Life, with Fruit* (1945), another major composition repatriated from the United Kingdom. A complex and artfully constructed image, the viewpoint emphasises the table's reflective surface and the objects that are placed upon it (estimate \$45,000-65,000, lot 128, pictured). The work was first exhibited at the artist's solo exhibition in Birmingham in 1945. Both paintings have been reproduced by Sotheby's Australia for the first time.

## AT A GLANCE

PROPERTY FROM THE SAMUEL COURTAULD COLLECTION, LONDON

ROY DE MAISTRE 1894-1968

*The Studio Table* 1928

oil on canvas

59.5 x 68.5 cm

Estimate \$60,000-80,000

Important Australian & International Art

Auction in Sydney, 11 May 2016, 6.30 pm, InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Estimate range: \$7,493,000-10,058,000

Lots on offer: 75

Exhibition in Melbourne 28 April – 1 May, 10 am to 5 pm, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney 5-11 May, 10 am to 5 pm, Paddington Town Hall, 249 Oxford Street, Paddington

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