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Unknown Tom Roberts Portrait Discovered

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



Tom Roberts 1856-1931, *Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe* (1891). Estimate \$50,000-70,000

Sotheby's Australia is delighted to announce the discovery of a hitherto unknown portrait by Tom Roberts. This recent find will be auctioned on 11 May 2016 by Sotheby's Australia's at the InterContinental Sydney. *Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe (1891)* by Tom Roberts (estimate \$50,000-70,000, pictured) was commissioned by Dr John Springthorpe, a significant patron of Roberts, and captures a tender moment between mother and daughter.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'The re-emergence of this intimate and personal painting of *Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe* (1891) could not be more pertinent given the recent retrospective exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and the publication of *Tom Roberts and the Art of Portraiture*. Roberts was Australia's most gifted portrait painter of his generation. Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the unveiling of this charming and significant portrait, and to catalogue and reproduce it for the first time in its history.'

The painting has remained in the family collection since it was commissioned in 1891. Dr John Springthorpe was a medical practitioner, who contributed to the advancement of general health and wellbeing, with his professional interests traversing therapeutics, dietetics and hygiene, dentistry, ambulance work, child welfare and mothercraft nurses' education and the mentally ill. Springthorpe was a patron of the arts and collected major works by Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton and their contemporaries. Tragically, one of his most significant contributions was a memorial sculpture collaborated on by John Longstaff, Bertram Mackennal and Harold Desbrowe Annear in Kew Cemetery, Melbourne dedicated to Springthorpe's wife Annie, who died after just 10 years of marriage.

Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe is consigned by a descendent of Springthorpe's, Ms Judy Totton. Based in the United Kingdom, Totton is an award winning publicist in the music industry and has been engaged by some of the biggest names including Joan Armatrading, David Bowie, Ray Davies, Dire Straits, INXS, Kiss, Chris Rea, Status Quo and Bill Wyman. A personal highlight for her was managing the visit of the Dalai Lama on three separate occasions and the return to the UK of the Great Train Robber, Ronnie Biggs.

AT A GLANCE

TOM ROBERTS 1856-1931

Annie Springthorpe and Enid Springthorpe (1891)

oil on wood panel

37.5 x 27.5 cm

Estimate \$50,000-70,000

Catalogued and reproduced for the first time

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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