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

SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA TO PRESENT
Fred Williams' Definitive Masterpiece
Hillside Landscape No. 1 (1966)



Fred Williams 1927-1982, *Hillside Landscape No. 1* (1966). Estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000

Privately owned for over half a century and repatriated to Australia for auction

Reproduced for the first time in its history

On 11 May, Sotheby's Australia's Evening Sale of **Important Australian & International Art** in Sydney will feature a painting that redefined the representation of the landscape in Australian art. *Hillside Landscape No. 1 (1966)* by **Fred Williams** (estimate \$1,000,000-1,200,000, pictured) was first exhibited in December 1966 at Rudy Komon Art Gallery, Sydney, and has remained in private international ownership for half a century. Sotheby's Australia has reproduced this masterpiece for the first time.

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In 1965 Fred Williams returned to Australia following nine months overseas on a Helena Rubinstein Travelling Scholarship, after-which he became self-supporting; dedicated to painting full-time. This professional ‘luxury’, together with his European art experiences produced a remarkable burst of creativity, generating the second You Yang series, the Lysterfield and Upwey landscapes and, the most celebrated, his generic and universal Hillside. The majority of these major canvases reside in public Australian collections as well as the Tate, London.

Critics, historians and collectors have acclaimed Williams’ ‘Hillside’ compositions, as representing a defining moment in the history and development in Australian Art. These landscapes capture the essence and feel of an environment, in a most minimalistic manner. William’s Hillside paintings are dynamic compositions with an element of ‘magic’ invested into them by the artist.

In 2015 the highest price for an Australian work of art at auction was Fred Williams’ *Trees and Hillside* 1964 sold by Sotheby’s Australia for \$1.7 million.



Fred William 1927-1982, *Upwey Landscape (Winter)* (1968). Estimate \$600,000-800,000.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia

commented: ‘Hillside Landscape No. 1 is the most significant painting from Fred Williams’ Hillside series to ever appear at auction. Repatriated from a private collection in London, Hillside Landscape No. 1 depicts the artist’s singular vision of reductive and prosaic mark-making and use of simultaneous perspectives to reveal our everyday surroundings in an entirely new way. The work pulsates with life and brims with originality and perfectly illustrates Williams’ pivotal role in redefining the landscape tradition in Australian Art’.

Important Australian & International Art also features the remarkable *Upwey Landscape (Winter)* (1968). Supremely elegant, the dramatically high and defined horizon line with hints of trees and logs traversing the composition is set against a subdued background suggestive of the Australian winter light. The painting was a highlight of the artist’s posthumous solo exhibition at Marlborough Galleries, London in 1995 and is offered at auction for the first time (estimate \$600,000-800,000).

‘Hillside Landscape No. 1 and Upwey Landscape (Winter) represent an artist at the height of their creative powers’ said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia. ‘It is thrilling to offer two exceptional examples by one of Australia’s most internationally acclaimed artists in our May sale.’

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art

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

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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