

Melbourne 31 January 2017

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Streeton's Masterpiece of Modern Sydney for Auction

Important Australian Art | Auction in Sydney 3 May 2017



Arthur Streeton 1867-1943, *Cremorne* (1926). Estimate \$180,000-220,000

One of Arthur Streeton's most renowned images of Sydney Harbour will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia in May in Sydney. *Cremorne* (1926) (estimate \$180,000-220,000), with its towering blocks of high-rise apartments and offices dominating the skyline and deep shadows cast on the glassy water, perfectly articulates the urbanisation of Sydney and its advancing modernity.

Sotheby's Australia has led the market in the ever increasing appreciation of the art of Arthur Streeton and achieved the highest auction result for an Australian painting in 2016 with Streeton's *Sydney Harbour* 1907 selling for \$2,074,000, the second highest price for the artist at auction. *The Murray and the Mountain* (1930) sold for \$915,000 in August 2016 against an estimate of \$150,000-200,000, and in November 2016 '*And the Sunlight Clasps the Earth*' 1895 realised \$689,300 over double the low estimate of \$250,000.

A world authority on the artist, Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'While the majority of Arthur Streeton's panel paintings of Sydney Harbour focus on the more poetic and sedate qualities of the foreshore, *Cremorne* is Streeton's ultimate statement in showing how Sydney confidently and enthusiastically embraced urbanisation as it rushed towards modernity. The city's interest in and commitment to architecture, art and design that celebrated the advancement of innovation and symbolised modernity and the machine age culminated with the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 and forever changed the physiognomy of Sydney.'

The re-emergence of *Cremorne* is particularly timely as the work of Australian Impressionists is celebrated in a major exhibition at the National Gallery in London. *Australia's Impressionists* features the work of four artists, Charles Conder, Tom Roberts, John Russell and Arthur Streeton, and is the first exhibition in the United Kingdom to focus of the subject.

AT A GLANCE

ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943

Cremorne (1926)

oil on wood panel

22.6 x 71 cm

Estimate \$180,000-220,000

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 3 May 2017, 6.30 pm

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