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John Keats 0412 132 520

John.Keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

## Galloping Results

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design  
Auction in Sydney 24 October 2017



The 1964 Melbourne Cup won by Polo Prince, 9ct gold, James Steeth & Son for William Drummond & Co. Ltd. Sold for \$140,300 October 2017

On 24 October exceptional results were achieved for a diverse collection of arts and design from the Han dynasty to the present day. The auction generated \$1,654,930, with 177.3% sold by value. The sale featured objects of exquisite craftsmanship and design from private collections which included an extensive collection of fine Australian and European art, furniture, glass, porcelain, gold and silver together with Chinese bronzes, ceramics, furniture, jades and works of art.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Sotheby's Australia is delighted to conclude its 2017 sales of *Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* with such strong results. The prices achieved are a testament to our commitment to meet the growing demand for quality pieces of Arts & Design with works from the finest practitioners.'

### GALLOPING RESULT FOR MELBOURNE CUP

The 1964 Melbourne Cup, which was won by New Zealand horse *Polo Prince*, doubled its low estimate and sold to a room bidder for \$140,300 (estimate \$70,000-90,000, lot 172, pictured above). Held in a private Queensland collection since 1999, the 1964 Melbourne Cup was previously owned by racing identities Mr & Mrs Laurie & Edna Davis. The gelding won by a length-and-a-quarter and was within a tenth-of-a-second of breaking the then race record. *Polo Prince* became the eighth New Zealand horse in the previous thirteen years to win the Melbourne Cup.

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## TURNING HEADS

Heads were turning as bidders vied for an impressive gilt bronze figure of the eleven-headed Avalokiteshvara which nearly tripled the high estimate and achieved \$146,400 (estimate \$30,000-50,000, lot 50, pictured). The eleven headed Avalokiteshvara is an esoteric form of Bodhisattva, believed to have overcome eleven hardships in order to attain Buddhahood. Another insight into the deity is that Avalokiteshvara failed to fulfil his vow of saving all the sentient souls from hell and his head splits into one hundred pieces and Amitabha Buddha consolidated them into ten heads, crowning them with one of his own to show that Amitabha is always there to aid him in his goal of universal salvation.



The market remains buoyant for Asian arts with a number of items far exceeding their estimates;

- A blue and white 'floral spray' bowl, mark and period of Yongzheng sold for \$48,800, 24 times the low estimate of \$2,000 (lot 80)
- An unusual huanghuali barrel stool, Qing dynasty realised \$40,260, 13 times the low estimate of \$3,000 (lot 73)
- A soapstone figure of Guanyin and stand, late Qing dynasty sold for \$42,700, 7 times the low estimate of \$5,500 (lot 60)

## DANCING TO A NEW COLLECTOR'S HOME

Held in the distinguished South Australian Angas family collection for over 90 years, a rare figurine by Demêtre Chiparus, *Dancer of Kapurthala*, circa 1925 sold for \$109,800 (estimate \$80,000-100,000, lot 198, pictured). The direct source of inspiration for *Dancer of Kapurthala* appears to be Anita Delgado, a Spanish flamenco dancer, who captivated the heart of the Maharaja of Kapurthala. During his visit to attend the wedding of Spanish King Alfonso XIII, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh Bahadur, became infatuated with Delgado after witnessing her perform. Initially refusing the Maharaja's advances, Delgado would later marry him in a Sikh wedding in India, becoming the Maharani of Kapurthala, Prem Kaur.



## INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR PAINTINGS

Paintings from Asia, Australia and Europe drew local and international interest, with several items selling to international collectors. An impressive painting by Nicolae Grigorescu, *Country Houses*, consigned by the descendants of the former Romanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Viorel Tilea realised \$54,900 nearly triple the low estimate of \$20,000 (lot 114, pictured).



Contemporary Chinese artist Xia Junna's painting *Christmas Eve* 2001 realised \$24,400 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 111, pictured). *Christmas Eve* 2001 is a fine example of the artist's work which covered cross cultural boundaries, having an almost voyeuristic element as if the observer interrupted the festivities. Born in Mongolia, Xia was relatively protected from the 'Red Wave' of the Cultural Revolution due to the region's isolation. In 1987, Xia Junna entered the Central Academy of Fine Art's High School, and was fortunate to have the tutelage of Shen Ling who is regarded as an important representative of China's 'New Generation' painters who encouraged Xia's creativity and contemporary style.



## AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design  
Auction at The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, Tuesday 24 October 2017, 6 pm

Lots on offer: 238  
Total sold \$1,654,930 including buyer's premium  
Sold by volume: 61.76%  
Sold by value: 177.28%

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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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