

Melbourne 6 October 2017

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Former Ambassador's Rare Romanian Painting for Auction

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



NICOLAE GRIGORESCU 1838-1907, *Country Houses*. Estimate \$20,000-30,000

The 24 October auction of *Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* presents an impressive selection of paintings including a major canvas by Nicolae Grigorescu (1838-1907), consigned by the descendants of the former Romanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Viorel Tilea.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Viorel Tilea was a remarkable diplomat who played a significant role in the history of Europe. The painting from his collection is an interesting insight into himself and his homeland of Romania. In June 2017 Sotheby's Australia achieved exceptional results for two works by Nicolae Grigorescu, which sold for triple their estimates.'

Romanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1938 to 1940, Viorel Tilea was integral in aligning British foreign policy for Eastern Europe and its engagement with Germany, Hungary and Romania. A fascist regime overthrew the Romanian monarchy and government in the lead up to World War II, and, rather than returning to his homeland in 1940 after being recalled from his post, Tilea sought political asylum in the United Kingdom.

The painting by Nicolae Grigorescu is reminiscent of a more idyllic time than Tilea would have experienced, with *Country Houses* depicting a serene setting of house with laundry drying in the sun (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 114, pictured previous). The world auction record for the artist is in excess of AU\$550,000.

AT A GLANCE

PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF VIOREL TILEA CBE (1896-1972), FORMER
ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM
NICOLAE GRIGORESCU 1838-1907

Country Houses

oil on canvas, 44.5 x 90 cm

Estimate \$20,000-30,000

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Auction at The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, Tuesday 24 October 2017, 6 pm

Total auction estimate \$933,500-1,329,600 | 238 lots

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

19-24 October, 10 am to 5 pm

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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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