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The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection Excels at Sotheby's Australia

Auction in Sydney 21 March 2018

One of the finest private collections of Australian music history was auctioned on 21 March in Sydney. The sale included some of the musical instruments collected by, and used during, Kirk Pengilly's career with INXS



Kirk Pengilly of INXS with guitars consigned for auction

On 21 March 2018, Sotheby's Australia conducted an important sale of Australian music history from the private collection of Mr Kirk Pengilly, founding member, guitarist, saxophonist and backing vocalist for INXS. *The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection* comprised rare guitars, and a selection of the working instruments used in studio recordings such as *The Swing*, *Listen Like Thieves*, *X*, *Welcome to Wherever You Are*, *Kick* and concert tours associated with those albums and realised \$228,323 with 143% sold by value.

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The diversity of Kirk Pengilly's musical ability is truly astonishing, considering his limited formal training. Pengilly is a lifelong member of the internationally renowned Australian band INXS since it was formed in 1977 (as The Farriss Brothers), and together the group has sold over 50 million records worldwide. INXS has received numerous nominations, awards and trophies for their work, including three American Grammy nominations, and induction into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2001. After the passing of lead singer, Michael Hutchence, in 1997, the band has continued its concerts and tours, including recording the *Switch* album after the critically acclaimed TV Show, *Rockstar-INXS* and producing a tribute album, *Original Sin* in 2010.



A Fender L-Series Stratocaster 'Candy Apple Red', 1964. Sold for \$42,700 March 2018

A 1964 Fender L-Series Stratocaster 'Candy Apple Red' guitar used on various recordings from the 'X' Album onwards sold for \$42,700 to a telephone bidder (estimate \$35,000-45,000, lot 141, pictured). The 1964 year of manufacture is described as the peak of quality of the Fender Stratocaster, before Fender was bought out by CBS and changed their manufacturing techniques. Kirk Pengilly commented 'this was my favourite guitar in the collection. – a truly great sounding instrument.'

Sale highlights include;

- The French made *Selmer MK-VI baritone saxophone*, used on the recording of *Bitter Tears* and *All Around*, which nearly tripled the low estimate and realised \$21,960 (estimate \$8,000-12,000, lot 163, pictured).
- A Gibson Les Paul custom ebony electric guitar with OHSC, 1969 sold over the high estimate for \$17,690 (estimate \$12,000-15,000, lot 150).
- A Gibson ES-335 'Cherry' electric guitar, 1968 more than doubled the low estimate of \$5,000 selling for \$12,200 (estimate \$5,000-8,000, lot 150).
- A 1986 Westone Pantera X300 electric guitar sold for \$8,540 (estimate \$4,000-6,000, lot 172). This guitar featured prominently as the lead rhythm guitar in the recording of the 1987 hit, *New Sensation*, one of the most recognisable guitar riffs in Australian 20th century music history.



A Selmer MK-VI baritone saxophone, 1975. Sold for \$21,960 March 2018

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'We were honoured to auction this magnificent collection of Australian music history. Kirk Pengilly is one of our most renowned contemporary musicians and contributed significantly to the Australian music industry and taking the sound of Australia to the world.'

AT A GLANCE

The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection

Auction at The InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 21 March 2018, 7.30 pm

Lots on offer: 43

Total sold \$228,323 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 97.67%

Sold by value: 143.06%

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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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