

Melbourne 22 February 2018

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# Australian & European Arts & Design

Stage is set with three Art Deco figurines by Ferdinand Preiss (1882-1943) for auction

Selection of rare furniture by Australia's most important mid-century modernist designer Schulim Krimper (1893-1971)

Historically significant early watercolour of Melbourne's Sandridge Railway Jetty & Pier (Port Melbourne) provides insight into early settlement of Melbourne



Ferdinand Preiss (1882-1943), 'Charleston Dancer', circa 1925. Estimate \$40,000-50,000

Ferdinand Preiss (1882-1943), 'Raging Jester', circa 1925. Estimate \$35,000-45,000

Ferdinand Preiss (1882-1943), 'Cabaret Girl', circa 1925. Estimate \$35,000-45,000

Sotheby's Australia's March sale of *Fine Australian & European Arts & Design* will showcase a diverse collection of Australian and international arts and design. Following *The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass* and *The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection* over 60 Australian & European works from the 1850s to the present will be auctioned. Commencing at 6 pm on 21 March at the InterContinental Sydney, the sale feature objects of exquisite craftsmanship and design from private collections which includes an extensive collection of fine Australian and European art, furniture, glass, porcelain and silver.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Our 21 March sale commences with a rare and important collection of Lalique glass from the collection of the late Hans and Gertrud Mueller, followed by an impressive array of musical instruments from the private collection of Kirk Pengilly from INXS. The evening concludes with *Australian & European Arts & Design* and offers a diverse collection of significant works by key practitioners. Ferdinand Preiss was a master of the Art Deco style. His detailed and refined sculptures epitomise the dynamism, elegance and glamour of the period. A rare 1858 oil painting of *Sandridge Railway Jetty and Pier, Melbourne, Victoria* provides an insight into the shipping and commerce of early Melbourne. From the late 1940s though to the 1960s Schulim Krimper was a master craftsman in furniture design, and became a leader in modernist furniture design in Australia. We are fortunate to have a diverse selection of his work together for auction. The sale is poised to generate broad national and international interest.'



Schulim Krimper (1893-1971), a teak cocktail cabinet. Estimate \$10,000-15,000

## ART DECO DELIGHTS

A leading sculptor of the Art Deco period, Ferdinand Preiss operated a design and manufacturing company which grew to specialize in limited edition Art Deco cabinet sculptures that combined painted bronze with ivory on stands of onyx and marble. Preiss revolutionized the production of ornamental statues with the use of a dental drill for more detailed and efficient carving of the ivory. Fine examples of Ferdinand Preiss's designs perfectly capturing the modern era of movement and dance, including 'Charleston Dancer' circa 1925 (estimate \$40,000-50,000, lot 241, pictured previous) and 'Cabaret Girl' circa 1925 (estimate \$35,000-45,000, lot 243, pictured previous). An exceptionally rare car mascot is 'Raging Jester' circa 1925 (estimate \$35,000-45,000, lot 242, pictured previous).

## AUSTRALIAN MODERNIST DESIGN

Romanian born Schulim Krimper completed his apprenticeship with a local cabinet-maker prior to the outbreak of World War I. Having travelled through central Europe, Krimper settled in Berlin, Germany with his wife, but with the rising persecution of Jews in Germany they managed to immigrate to Australia via England where he helped to supervise the building of a refugee camp. Continuing with his cabinet-making in Melbourne, in 1948 the National Gallery of Victoria acquired two cabinets and he was the first contemporary furniture designer to be acquired by the institution. During the 1950s and 1960s Krimper was Melbourne's premier supplier of custom-made furniture in the modernist style. He was renowned for his capability to reveal the beauty of timber, and the finesse of his joinery. Highlights of Krimper's woodcraft skills can be seen in a teak cocktail cabinet (estimate \$10,000-15,000, lot 208, pictured above) and a blackbean dining table (estimate \$8,000-10,000, lot 210).

**RARE EARLY WATERCOLOUR EXAMPLE OF PORT PHILLIP**

*Sandridge Railway Jetty and Pier, Melbourne Victoria* 1858 (estimate \$5,000-8,000, lot 178, pictured above) by a previously unrecorded artist, Mr Cust, is an extremely rare early example of the daily life in Port Phillip during the gold rush era. The artist has captured the frenetic activity around the pier with clippers, boats and steam ships, arriving, docking, unloading and loading and departing. Ominous clouds and dark skies set the stage whilst men on the foreshore unload building materials along with barrels and crates possibly for Liardet's hotel. By 1854 two piers, the Sandridge Town Pier and the Railway Pier (now Station Pier) were in operation along with a new railway line linking Melbourne with Sandridge enabling ships to load and unload goods and passengers directly onto the pier powered by the first steam passenger train in Australia.



MR CUST, active 1850s, *Sandridge Railway Jetty and Pier, Melbourne, Victoria* 1858. Estimate \$5,000-8,000

**AT A GLANCE**

Australian & European Arts & Design (lots 178-243)

Estimate \$526,200-713,500 | 66 lots

Auction in Sydney, 21 March 2018, 6 pm | InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

TOTALS FOR SALES ON 21 MARCH

The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass | The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection | Fine Australian & European Arts & Design

Estimate \$1,144,900-1,582,300 | 243 lots

Exhibition in Sydney 15-21 March, 10 am to 5 pm | 30 Queen Street, Woollahra, NSW

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