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CROWE MANIA IGNITES GLOBAL BIDDING AND ACHIEVES GLADIATORIAL RESULTS AT SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA

RUSSELL CROWE

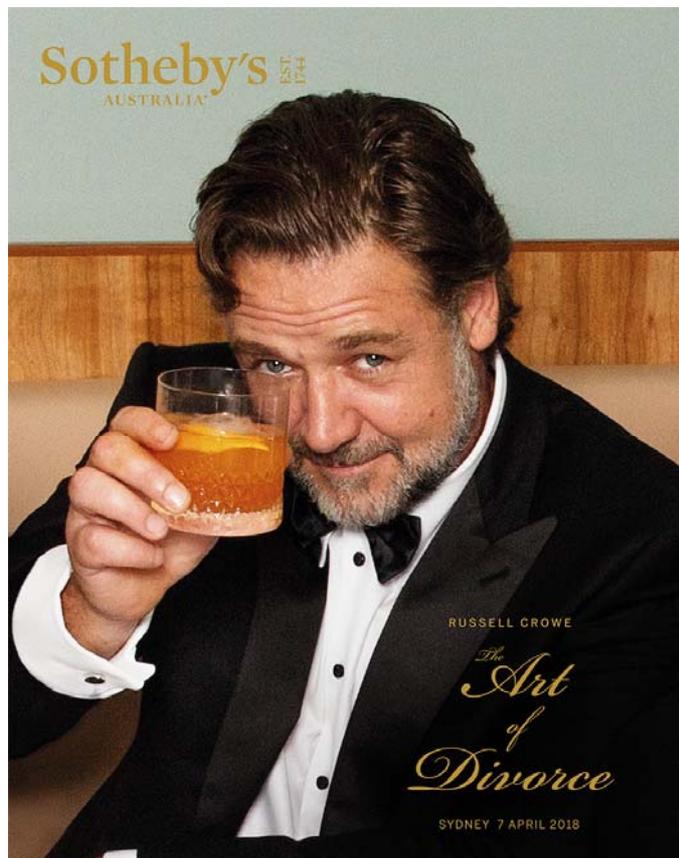
The Art of Divorce

Outstanding results were achieved for pieces from the private collection of actor, film producer, director and musician Russell Crowe, auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 7 April 2018. The sale took place on the actor's birthday and wedding anniversary.

With worldwide bidding the sale realised over \$3.7 million including buyer's premium on the night, with post-sale interest forecast to achieve in excess of \$4 million.

Highest price was Charles Blackman's *The Suitor* (1960) selling for \$439,200, over double the low estimate.

A stampede of bids for the replica Roman chariot from 'Gladiator' drove the price to \$79,300, more than 15 times the low estimate.



Russell Crowe

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On 7 April 2018, Sotheby's Australia auctioned the private collection of actor, film producer, director and musician, Russell Crowe. The sale included an important collection of Australian art, decorative arts, watches and jewellery, together with music and sporting memorabilia, and costumes, props, musical instruments and items from Crowe's extensive and diverse career in film and music. Consisting of 226 items, the sale realised \$3.7 million with 145% sold by value. Following a rendition of Happy Birthday by Alisa Nastestki, Russell Crowe made an impromptu personal appearance for the Sydney audience.

Prior to the auction Russell Crowe commented: 'Divorce has its way of making you really examine the things that are essential in life ... and the things that are not. Through the process I had a look around and realised I had a lot of stuff. Career stuff, stuff I've collected and stuff in general. Boxes and boxes of stuff. Paintings, Aubrey's violin, watches, costumes, memorabilia ... so in the spirit of moving forward into fresh air, here's a portion of that collection of stuff. May others now enjoy my stuff!'

Following the auction Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'We were extremely honoured and privileged to offer items from the private collection of Russell Crowe. Held on Russell Crowe's birthday and wedding anniversary, the sale formed another significant moment in the life of one of Australia's most acclaimed creative forces of our times. This auction garnered the most extensive international interest and bidding in the history of Sotheby's Australia, with bidders from America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and New Zealand, battling valiantly to secure items from Russell Crowe's diverse collection.'

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

AUSTRALIAN ART

- Charles Blackman's *The Suitor* (1960) sold to a telephone bidder for \$439,200, more than doubling the low estimate and achieving the highest price for the evening (estimate \$180,000-220,000, lot 91, pictured).
- Also more than doubling the low estimate, Brett Whiteley's *Moreton Bay Fig and Palms* (1974) achieved \$231,800 (estimate \$100,000-150,000, lot 85, pictured).
- Norman Lindsay's *Abundance* (circa 1924) quadrupled the low estimate selling for \$122,000 to a telephone bidder (estimate \$30,000-50,000, lot 65).



CHARLES BLACKMAN, born 1928, *The Suitor* (1960). Sold for \$439,200 April 2018



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992, *Moreton Bay Fig and Palms* (1974). Sold for \$231,800 April 2018

FILM

- Following Bridget O'Donnell's performance on the concert violin by Leandro Bisiach Snr (1864-1946), the instrument, used by Russell Crowe as 'Captain Jack Aubrey' in the film, *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003), Milan, dated 1890 achieved \$164,700 (estimate \$110,000-140,000, lot 31, pictured).
- The stunt Cuirass / Gladiator costume worn by Russell Crowe as 'Maximus Decimus Meridius' in the scene of his death, in the film, *Gladiator* (2000) sold for \$152,500, almost eight times the low estimate (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 10, pictured).
- A fully functioning replica Roman chariot from the film *Gladiator* (2000) raced to an impressive \$79,300, almost fifteen times the low estimate (estimate \$5,000-10,000, lot 17).
- The National Museum of Australia acquired the maroon leather Doc Martens boots, worn by Russell Crowe as the character 'Hando' in the film *Romper Stomper* (1992) for \$12,200 (estimate \$10,000-15,000, lot 2).



A violin by Leandro Bisiach Snr (1864-1946), used by Russell Crowe as the character, 'Captain Jack Aubrey' in the film, *Master and Commander* (2003), Milan, dated 1890. Sold for \$164,700 April 2018

WATCHES

- Bidders from around the world watched and participated via the internet, with one acquiring a fine gold Rolex Cosmograph Daytona automatic chronograph wristwatch with registers and bracelet circa late 1990s for \$48,800 (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 218, pictured).
- A Rolex Yachtmaster stainless steel and platinum automatic wristwatch with date, circa 2003, engraved 'MASTER & COMMANDER 2003' on the back doubled the estimate and sold for \$24,400 (estimate \$10,000-15,000, lot 203).



The stunt cuirass worn by Russell Crowe as the character, 'Maximus', in the film, *Gladiator* (2000). Sold for \$156,250 April 2018



A fine gold automatic chronograph Rolex Daytona Cosmograph wristwatch with registers and bracelet circa late 1990s. Sold for \$48,800 April 2018

CRICKET LEGENDS

- A life-sized bronze statue of Donald Bradman by Carl Valerius sold for \$63,440 (estimate \$50,000-60,000, lot 126).
- Bert Oldfield's 'Baggy Green' test cap worn during the 1932-1933 'Bodyline' Test series for \$67,100 (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 129).
- A Gunn & Moore cricket bat, used by Martin Crowe to score his 17th and final Test century, England vs. New Zealand, Old Trafford, 1994 sold for \$24,400, over seven times the low estimate to a telephone bidder (estimate \$3,500-4,500, lot 103).



A life-size hollow-cast bronze statue of Donald Bradman, by Carl Valerius. Sold for \$63,440 April 2018

AT A GLANCE

Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce
Auction in Sydney, 7 April 2018, 6 pm
Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh, New South Wales

Lots on offer: 226
Total sold \$3,731,553 including buyer's premium
Sold by volume: 84.96%
Sold by value: 144.89%

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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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