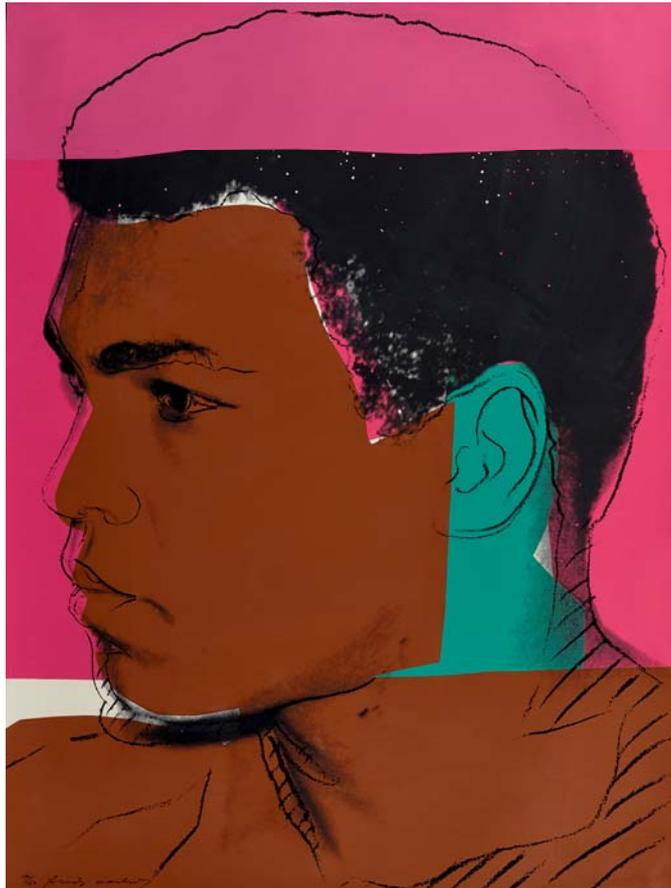


Melbourne 19 July 2018

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Muhammad Ali Punches Above Weight at Sotheby's Australia

AUCTION IN SYDNEY 18 JULY 2018



ANDY WARHOL 1928-1987, *Muhammad Ali* (1978). Sold for \$63,440 July 2018.

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Fierce bidding delivered champion results at Sotheby's Australia's July sale of *Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design*. The cross-cultural diversity of international arts and design from the first century to contemporary achieved a resounding result of \$1,917,596 sold. Bidders fought over two 1978 screenprint portraits of *Muhammad Ali* with lot 47 selling for \$48,800 (estimate \$20,000-30,000), while an upper-cut bid for lot 48 delivered \$63,440, a fitting result for the three time World Heavyweight Champion as the result nearly tripled the low estimate (estimate \$25,000-35,000, pictured). Demand for fine Australian and international art saw bidders punching the air as prices soared for works by Jacob Epstein, Norman Lindsay, John Passmore and Brett Whiteley, with overall results of 130% sold by value for the art section of the sale.

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The Jacob Epstein bronze of *Rabindranath Tagore* tripled the low estimate as international bidders engaged in a bidding tussle taking the result to \$36,600 (estimate \$10,000-15,000, lot 41, pictured). Highly esteemed Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet and musician who was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

Local and international bidders also fought valiantly for Asian arts and design, delivering over a staggering 250% sold by value. An unusual carved wood moon flask, Qing dynasty sold for more 12 times the estimate for \$87,840 (estimate \$7,000-9,000, lot 257, pictured). The continued appreciation for pieces featuring huanghuali timber, renowned for its translucent shimmering surface with abstract patterns achieved impressive results with a Ming-style huanghuali and hardwood round corner tapered cabinet Yuanjiaogui, 19th/20th century selling for \$46,360 (estimate \$18,000-22,000, lot 353).

The auction-room became animated as demand for Chinese ceramics saw bidders vying for a famille-rose 'Balsam pear' teabowl and cover, seal mark and period of Daoguang realising \$34,160, 12 times the low estimate of \$2,800 (estimate \$2,800-3,800, lot 227, pictured). A pair of famille-rose 'Balsam pear' teabowls and covers with the seal marks of Daoguang sold to a room bidder for \$61,000, doubling the low estimate (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 297). The Balsam pear is a bitter-fruit, which is said to contain many health and healing properties.



A famille-rose 'Balsam pear' teabowl and cover, seal mark and period of Daoguang. Sold for \$34,160 July 2018



JACOB EPSTEIN 1880-1959, *Rabindranath Tagore* (1926). Sold for \$36,600 in July 2018



An unusual carved wood moon flask Qing dynasty. Sold for \$87,840 in July 2018

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Auction in Sydney, 18 July 2018, 6 pm, The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra

Lots on offer: 351

Total sold \$1,917,596 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 61.25%

Sold by value: 141.30%

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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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