

Melbourne 3 July 2018

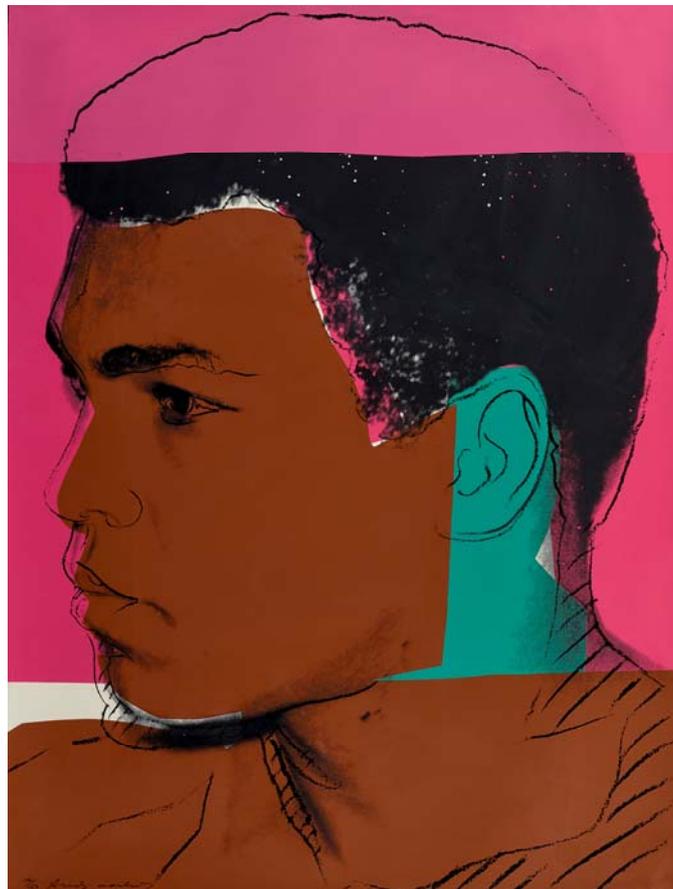
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# Muhammad meets Marilyn: Prints & Photographs by Andy Warhol & Bert Stern feature in Arts & Design Sale

AUCTION IN SYDNEY 18 JULY 2018

Two Andy Warhol screenprints of heavyweight boxer Muhammad Ali record the champion at his sporting peak in 1978

Two photographs of blonde bombshell Marilyn Monroe, one from her 'last sitting' in 1962 by Bert Stern



ANDY WARHOL 1928-1987, *Muhammad Ali* (1978). Estimate AUD\$25,000-35,000.  
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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Portraits of two international icons of the twentieth century by Andy Warhol and Bert Stern are highlights in our forthcoming sale of Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design to be held in Sydney on 18 July 2018. In the age of Instagram, Warhol's fabled prediction that "in the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes" has never been more prophetic and relevant to contemporary culture. Warhol discovered the burgeoning celebrity status of sportsmen in 1977 produced a screenprint portfolio dedicated to the World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion Mohamad Ali in 1978, and we are excited to offer two of the four prints from this portfolio in our sale.'

Andy Warhol photographed Muhammad Ali for the first time as part of his 1977 *Athletes* series, which was initiated by the West Coast art collector and sports fanatic Richard Weisman. The *Athletes* series included other sports stars of the era, such as the golfer Jack Nicklaus, Brazilian soccer hero Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) and basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. In 1978 Warhol revisited his imagery of Muhammad Ali, creating a series of four limited edition screenprints dedicated to the third time World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion, presenting Ali as a pop icon and one of the first major celebrations of a black hero in American art. Sotheby's Australia presents two of these screenprints for auction *Muhammad Ali* (1978) (estimate AUD\$20,000-30,000, lot 47) and *Muhammad Ali* (1978) (estimate AUD\$25,000-35,000, lot 48, pictured previous). Andy Warhol remarked: 'I said that the athletes were better than movie stars and I don't know what I'm talking about because athletes are the new movie stars.' (*Andy Warhol: The Athlete Series*, exhibition catalogue, London, 2007, p. 76).

Photographer Bert Stern created a series of photographs of Marilyn Monroe in 1962 that have become known as 'The Last Sitting.' Shot over a few sessions at the Hotel Bel-Air, the photographs are recognised as the most iconic images ever captured of America's most famous actress, who six weeks later was found dead from an apparent drug overdose. Within the series of photographs, there are images of Monroe posing in a black dress, reclining dripping in diamonds, sipping from a Champagne glass, and flirtatiously playing to the camera in various stages of undress. *Marilyn Monroe, Roses, Last Sitting* 1962 (estimate AUD\$15,000-20,000, lot 46, pictured) presents the upper torso of Monroe naked apart from rose blooms she holds over her breasts, her face teases the viewer, as if they are the only other person in the room.



BERT STERN 1929-2013, *Marilyn Monroe, Roses, Last Sitting* 1962. Estimate AUD\$15,000-20,000. © Bert Stern Trust.

## AT A GLANCE

ANDY WARHOL 1928-1987

*Muhammad Ali* (1978)

screenprint on paper

edition 106 of 150, plus 10 artist's proofs

101.7 x 76.2 cm (image)

Estimate AUD\$25,000-35,000

BERT STERN 1929-2013

*Marilyn Monroe, Roses, Last Sitting* 1962

gelatin silver print, printed later and uniquely hand coloured 2001

110.2 x 84.2 cm (image)

Estimate AUD\$15,000-20,000

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Total sale estimate AUD\$1,361,100-1,928,100 | 352 lots

Auction in Sydney, 18 July 2018, 6 pm

The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra

Exhibition in Sydney 12-18 July, 10 am to 5 pm

30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

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