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Sotheby's Australia to Offer *FAREWELL* BY DEL KATHRYN BARTON – Estimate \$150,000-350,000 –

A major contemporary painting by a leading Australian artist will feature in Sotheby's Australia's auction of *Important Australian Art*

Sotheby's Australia poised to break artist's auction record twice in one year



DEL KATHRYN BARTON, born 1972, *Farewell* 2004, synthetic polymer paint, gouache and pen on canvas, 198 x 303.5 cm.
Estimate \$150,000-350,000. © Del Kathryn Barton/Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

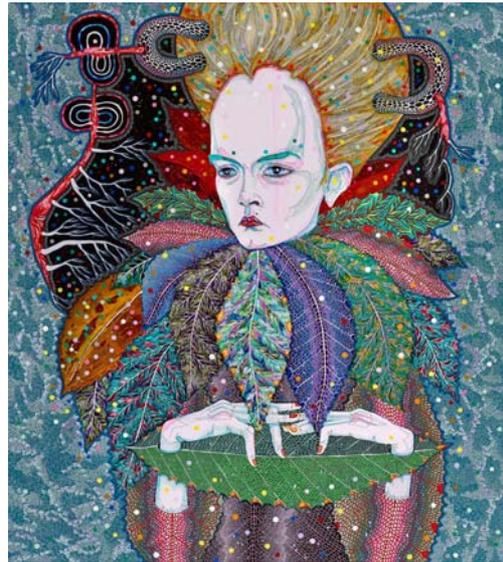
Important Australian Art | Auction Sydney 28 August 2018

Melbourne Exhibition | 15-19 August 2018

Sydney Exhibition | 23-28 August 2018

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Sotheby's Australia is honoured to announce Del Kathryn Barton's *Farewell* 2004 as a highlight of our auction of *Important Australian Art* this August. One of the most significant works by the internationally renowned artist to ever appear at auction, the painting is a *tour de force* that captures Barton's extraordinary vision and technical command. A testament to the artist's singular vision, Barton's work was the recent subject of a major survey exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne in 2017-2018. A contemporary cornerstone to our *Important Australian Art* auction on 28 August, *Farewell* 2004 carries a pre-sale estimate of \$150,000-350,000, and is poised to establish a new world auction record for the artist.



DEL KATHRYN BARTON, born 1972, *Of Pollen* 2013, synthetic polymer paint and gouache on polyester canvasm 160 x 140 cm. Sold for \$378,200 May 2018. Auction record for the artist. © Del Kathryn Barton, courtesy of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'We are privileged to be entrusted with the sale of *Farewell*, a masterpiece by Del Kathryn Barton. Artistically complex and career defining, it is an inspiring composition and standing in front of this richly detailed subject one uncovers layers of meaning and discovery. A highly anticipated feature of our *Important Australian Art* auction, *Farewell* joins other exceptional works by Australia's most crucial modern and contemporary practitioners.'

One of Australia's most prominent and celebrated creative forces, Del Kathryn Barton is an artist who continually develops and evolves in genre and style. Working across all media including painting and drawing, sculpture, film and fashion, to photography and collage, Barton's work is singular and expressive, and her appeal to the public and collectors alike is far reaching. Barton has won the prestigious Archibald Prize twice: in 2008 with *You are What is Most Beautiful about Me, A Self Portrait with Kell and Arella* (2008, Private Collection) and in 2013 with *Hugo* (2013, Private Collection).

Barton's artistic lineage references the great Austrian painters of the early twentieth century, Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt: Schiele in terms of drawing and figuration along with the use of colour and subjectivity; and Klimt, for pattern and unremitting beauty. Barton's understanding of Symbolism is apparent in her work, whereby she is able to create an expressive and symbolic art borne both personally and locally.

A companion painting to *Farewell* is *We had Been Picking Flowers for Centuries* (2003, Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart), which is comparable in size and similar in composition and iconography. *Farewell* is less graphic in content than many of the artist's other works, yet filled with her hallmark subjects of women, rabbits, possums, birds and flowers and remains an overt celebration the natural world. Dominant with feminine subjects, *Farewell* possesses intellect and beauty, with variously posed women surrounded by an abundance of flora and fauna reminding the viewer of fertility and the cycle of life. Barton remains one of the most engaging and relevant Australian artists of her generation who continues to startle and provoke.

In May 2018, Sotheby's Australia established a new auction record for Del Kathryn Barton of \$378,200 against a presale estimate of \$100,000-140,000. This result nearly doubled previous artist record established only three weeks earlier.

AT A GLANCE

DEL KATHRYN BARTON, BORN 1972

Farewell 2004

synthetic polymer paint, gouache and pen on canvas

198 x 303.5 cm

Estimate \$150,000-350,000

Important Australian Art

Auction in Sydney, 28 August 2018, 6.30 pm

InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Exhibition in Melbourne, 15-19 August 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney, 23-28 August 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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