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Treasures: Important Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE, 24 OCTOBER 2018

Australia's pre-eminent arts and design sale presents masterpieces from Asia, Australia and Europe with exceptional cultural and historical significance.



J.C. WAITE 1832-1920, *Melbourne* (1888). Estimate \$100,000-150,000.

On 24 October 2018, Sotheby's Australia will present an extraordinary selection of works of fine and decorative arts as part of its **Treasures: Important Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design** sale. Positioned as Australia's pre-eminent arts and design auction, this sale assembles exemplary ceramics, furniture, glass, paintings, sculpture, works on paper, silver, and objects of vertu, selected for their outstanding quality, rarity, beauty and historical significance. Of singular importance, the works define and contribute to our understanding of our multi-cultural nation and the treasures it houses.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: '*Treasures: Important Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* forms a highlight of our auction calendar. Unprecedented in its highly disciplined approach, the sale allows us to bring works of exceptional quality and historical significance to auction.'

A feature of the sale is J.C. Waite's *Melbourne 1888*, a remarkable composition within the artist's *oeuvre* that reveals Melbourne as a bustling mercantile port in which the streaky streams of smoke filled the dramatic city skyline as its inhabitants engaged in their rituals of everyday living. This painting was the artist's major contribution to the Centennial International Exhibition and belongs to the historically significant series of large-scale images of Melbourne that celebrated the centenary of European settlement and dynamic enterprise of Marvellous Melbourne; including Frederick McCubbin's *The City's Toil* (1887, Private Collection) and Arthur Streeton's *Between the Lights, Princes Bridge* (1888, Private Collection). In each of these compositions views of the City of Melbourne are imbued with a sense of the past, present and future. *Melbourne 1888* has been consigned from the esteemed collection of the late Julian and Miriam Sterling. Julian Sterling was the founder of Melbourne's Southern Cross Galleries and was responsible for the formation of numerous important collections of Asian, Australian and European art.

AT A GLANCE

Treasures: Important Australian, Asian and European Arts & Design
Auction in Melbourne, 24 October 2018, 6 pm
14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Exhibition in Sydney, 11-14 October 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 30 Queen Street, Woollahra
Exhibition in Melbourne, 18-24 October 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

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