

Smith&Singer

Melbourne | +61 (0)3 9508 9900 | Thomas Austin | Thomas.Austin@smithandsinger.com.au

LOST WARTIME PAINTING OF RENOWNED DARLING POINT HOUSE & DOUBLE BAY RETURNS TO SYDNEY

'The Terrace, Neidpath' 1942 Returns Home After Decades Away from the Public Eye in the United Kingdom & New Zealand

Commissioned by Australian Wool Broker & Trustee of the National Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sir James McGregor, it will be Offered for Public Sale this Wednesday for the First time Since its Creation in 1942



ADRIAN FEINT 1894-1971
The Terrace, Neidpath 1942
oil on canvas, 51 x 46 cm
Estimate \$15,000–25,000

MELBOURNE, 22 June 2020 – From his home, Neidpath, in Darling Point, Sir James McGregor would gaze across Sydney Harbour at the splendour of it all and reflect on how well life had treated him. Born in Adelaide he had entered the family wool business upon leaving school. Over the years McGregor expanded the business and in 1908 opened an office in Sydney. By the height of his storied career, he had become Australia's largest wool-buyer.

During this time, McGregor purchased Neidpath, the imposing home at 2 Carthona Avenue in Darling Point. The property had been built in the early years of the twentieth century and occupied a

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commanding view over Sydney harbour. With his wealth, good taste and knowledge of art McGregor assembled an outstanding collection of sculptures and paintings including works by Australian, English and French artists. He also became friends with, and a patron of, leading artists of the day including Sir William Ashton, Sir Lionel Lindsay and Adrian Feint, leading to the commission of the present work.

ADRIAN FEINT 1894-1971 *THE TERRACE, NEIDPATH* 1942 (PICTURED TOP)

Sir James McGregor became Feint's greatest patron, ultimately owning more than a dozen of his paintings. Among the finest of those commissioned by McGregor, or indeed of all the works painted by Feint, was his oil on canvas *The Terrace, Neidpath*. Painted in 1942 and loaned to the Society of Artists for their *Annual Exhibition* in 1943, the work then returned to McGregor's private collection. Thereafter its whereabouts was lost until recently when it surfaced in the UK and was acquired by a New Zealand collector.

In *The Terrace, Neidpath*, Feint meticulously records the imposing, somewhat austere, albeit immensely fashionable and gracious, red-brick residence built in the early decades of the twentieth century. The dramatic arches, distinctive planter boxes and urns provided the perfect vehicle for Feint to demonstrate his great skill in recording architecture, design, typography, and of course flowers and foliage. The view from Darling Point to Double Bay and Point Piper beyond, remains an important historical and aesthetic record of Sydney during the Second World War.



HAROLD CAZNEAUX 1878-1953

The Terrace, Neidpath (1931)

gelatin silver print

Private Collection, courtesy of Smith &
Singer Fine Art



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It appears that the work had been purchased in Sydney during the Second World War by a visiting military officer then taken back to the UK where, for more than 75 years, it had remained in his family.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Smith & Singer commented: 'Considered 'lost' for many decades and recently repatriated to Australia, The Terrace, Neidpath is one of Adrian Feint's most important paintings ever to appear for public sale. It is offered at auction for the first time since its creation in 1942 and represents an important addition to our understanding of Feint's artistic practice.'

AT A GLANCE

Lot 36

ADRIAN FEINT 1894-1971

The Terrace, Neidpath 1942

oil on canvas, 51 x 46 cm

Estimate \$15,000–25,000

Important Australian & International Art

Estimate: \$5,962,000–8,310,000, 59 lots

Auction, Sydney, 24 June 2020, 6.30 pm

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

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Viewings in Melbourne 9-14 June, 10 am to 5 pm

14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Viewings in Sydney 17-24 June 2020, 10 am to 5 pm

30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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