

# Smith&Singer

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SMITH & SINGER NOVEMBER AUCTION TOTALS \$6,446,250,  
WITH 88.78% SOLD BY VALUE

*Sidney Nolan's Masterpiece, 'Ned Kelly: In the Bush' 1955, Realises Highest Price of the Evening at \$875,000*

*Rediscovered Streeton Dandenong Panorama Last Seen in 1933, Sells for \$475,000 – 158% of Estimate*

*Historic Fred Williams Canvas Realises \$575,000 after 44 Years Hidden from the Public Eye*

*Impressive Results for Australian Women Artists, Including Margaret Preston, Del Kathryn Barton & Cressida Campbell*



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992

**Ned Kelly: In the Bush** 1955

enamel paint on composition board, 61.2 x 51.3 cm

Estimate \$550,000–750,000

Sold for \$875,000

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**SYDNEY, 20 November 2020** – On Wednesday night, at Smith & Singer's *Important Australian & International Art* auction in Sydney, bidders from across Australia and the around the world competed vigorously for the works of art on offer. Bidding from clients in the live saleroom, on telephones, and online resulted in a sold rate of 88.78% by value, and a total of \$6,446,250. Outstanding results were achieved for leading traditional, modern and contemporary Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous

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artists including Del Kathryn Barton, Arthur Boyd, Cressida Campbell, Elioth Gruner, Sidney Nolan, John Olsen, Arthur Streeton, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Fred Williams, and Brett Whiteley, amongst others.

The evening sale commenced with an ebullient result for Margaret Preston's *Rock Lilies* 1932 (lot 4, estimate \$80,000–100,000), which doubled its high estimate when it realised \$200,000. This was soon followed by the first big ticket lot of the night – John Olsen's *People Who Live in Victoria Street* 1960 (lot 6, estimate \$450,000–650,000) – which sold for \$775,000 after a prolonged battle between specialists on the telephones and paddles in the room. With a high bar set, strong results continued throughout the sale, including Arthur Boyd's *Rocks in Budgong Creek New South Wales* (1979) (lot 7, estimate \$220,000–260,000) that realised \$412,500; Fred Williams' iconic *Lysterfield Landscape* (1968) (lot 8), which eclipsed its pre-sale estimate of \$450,000 to achieve \$575,000; Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly: In the Bush* 1955, from his historic London series of *Kelly* works from 1954-1955, that sold for \$875,000 (lot 9, estimate \$550,000–750,000) and realised the highest price of the evening; Arthur Streeton's *A Southern View, Olinda* (1933) (lot 14) which was hammered down for \$475,000 – 158% of its pre-sale estimate of \$300,000, following a tense battle in the room; *Rain Dreaming Dance* (1972) by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri (lot 36, estimate \$200,000–300,000) which sold for \$250,000; Long Jack Phillipus Tjakamarra's *Water Ceremony Story* (1971) (lot 37, estimate \$80,000–120,000), which sold for \$100,000; Del Kathryn Barton's *I have come to tell you that I have freed myself. You too can do the same* 2005-2006 (lot 44, estimate \$300,000–400,000), which sold for \$375,000 – the second-highest price for the artist at auction; and *Wheat and Sky* (2016) by Cressida Campbell (lot 67, estimate \$100,000–150,000), which comfortably exceeded its estimates when it sold for \$237,500.

## **STREETON AND WILLIAMS MASTERPIECES (PICTURED BELOW) EXCEED ESTIMATES ON 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TRAIL-BLAZING NGV EXHIBITION – HEROIC LANDSCAPE: WILLIAMS – STREETON**

On Wednesday evening, a poignant and salient canvas by Arthur Streeton that has remained hidden in the same private collection since 1933, and a masterful canvas by Fred Williams that was last seen publically in 1976, drew intent competition when offered to the public. Selling for \$475,000 and \$575,000 respectively, their auction was held 50 years to the month after the National Gallery of Victoria's *Heroic Landscape: Williams – Streeton*, exhibition, which radically and inventively showcased Arthur Streeton and Fred Williams – two of Australia's greatest artists – side-by-side.

Both paintings celebrate the natural environment surrounding the artists' homes and highlight the severe change to the wooded landscape that had occurred in the 35 years between the artists' depictions of rural Victoria. In a moment where Australia's natural environment is inextricably threatened by its use of the resources found therein, Streeton's and Williams' earnest celebration of, and concern for, their home becomes all the more relevant.



FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982  
**Lysterfield Landscape** (1968)  
oil on canvas, 91.6 x 107.3 cm  
Estimate \$450,000–650,000  
Sold for \$575,000

© Estate of Fred Williams/Copyright Agency, 2020



ARTHUR STREETON 1867-1943  
**A Southern View, Olinda** (1933)  
oil on canvas, 76 x 101.2 cm  
Estimate \$300,000–500,000  
Sold for \$475,000

**NOLAN'S WIMMERA LANDSCAPE 1943, REPATRIATED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OFFERED FOR AUCTION FOR THE FIRST TIME (PICTURED RIGHT)**

Not seen in public since 1971, Sidney Nolan's *Wimmera Landscape* 1943 was known only from references in catalogues from the 1960s and early 1970s. The work brilliantly articulates Nolan's singular vision of his distinct surroundings and belongs to the artist's remarkable and transformative series of paintings and works on paper created during his military service between 1942 and 1944. Here, the artist provides a shimmering overview of the flat, golden, plains of the wheat-growing country of the Wimmera, captured by Nolan's distinct mark-making of thick, dragged brushstrokes across the canvas. The painting was acquired by an international collector and returned to Australia, where it assumes its rightful position within the celebrated series that changed the course of Australian landscape painting and inspired successive generations of Australian artists.



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992  
**Wimmera Landscape** 1943  
enamel paint on canvas, 63.6 x 73.4 cm  
Estimate \$100,000–150,000  
Sold for \$162,500

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## FEMALE AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS EXCEL AT SMITH & SINGER

Impressive results were achieved for renowned Australian artists including Margaret Preston, Cressida Campbell and Del Kathryn Barton. Their success punctuates an ongoing campaign by Smith & Singer to celebrate the impact and virtuosity of these artists throughout Australia and overseas, including recent records for Ethel Carrick and Cressida Campbell.



MARGARET PRESTON 1875-1963

**Rock Lilies** 1932

oil on canvas, 45.5 x 53 cm

Estimate \$80,000–100,000

Sold for \$200,000

HIGHEST PRICE ACHIEVED AT  
AUCTION FOR THE ARTIST IN 2020

© Margaret Preston/Copyright Agency, 2020



DEL KATHRYN BARTON born 1972

**I have come to tell you that I have  
freed myself. You too can do the**

**same** 2005-2006

synthetic polymer paint, gouache,  
watercolour and pen on polyester  
canvas, 183 x 302 cm

Estimate \$300,000–400,000

Sold for \$375,000

SECOND-HIGHEST PRICE ACHIEVED  
AT AUCTION FOR THE ARTIST

© Courtesy of the Artist and Roslyn Oxley9  
Gallery, Sydney

## THE VERONICA (VERA) KOLMAN COLLECTION – A LIFE SPENT WITH ART

The select group of works from the discerning collection of the late Veronica (Vera) Kolman outperformed expectations during the night's proceedings. 20 of the 21 works sold, realising a total of \$640,636 – almost double the pre-sale low estimate of \$342,000 – including Cressida Campbell's *Wheat and Sky*, which realised the third-highest price at auction for the artist (pictured right).



CRESSIDA CAMPBELL born 1960

**Wheat and Sky (2016)**

watercolour on incised woodblock, 87 x 118.5 cm

Estimate \$100,000–150,000

Sold for \$237,500

© Cressida Campbell/Copyright Agency, 2020

For Gary Singer, CEO & Director of Smith & Singer, the consignment of the Kolman Estate held especial personal significance. Mr Singer's father, George, and Vera's husband, Joe, were partners in Fairline Furniture, one of Australia's first, large, successful lounge furniture manufacturing companies, established in the late 1940s.

The Kolman and Singer families became firm friends and, after Joe's untimely death in 1998, Vera remained an extended member of the Singer-Smith family.

*Gary Singer, CEO & Director of Smith & Singer commented:* 'I recall visiting the Kolman home as a child and being transfixed by the paintings hanging on the walls, so it was with mixed emotions that I watched as they found new homes with appreciative clients on Wednesday evening. It was a pleasure to see the works hanging on the gallery walls for the last two weeks in Melbourne and then Sydney, and I am delighted that the collection – as we knew it could – galvanised such demand from our buyers.'

*Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Smith & Singer, commented:* 'We are delighted with Wednesday's result of \$6,446,250, with a sold rate by value of 88.78%. The sale represents the final public fine art auction of the year at Smith & Singer and is a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication the company has showed through challenging times. Moreover, it clearly demonstrates that when a highly-curated selection of the best works available are presented to the public, there remains significant demand in the market – with numerous lots garnering fierce competition and realising prices well in excess of their estimates. We are proud to have achieved such results on behalf of our consignors and would like to thank all our clients and colleagues for their ongoing commitment throughout 2020. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our galleries in Melbourne for our forthcoming selling exhibitions, and to the *Important Jewels, Watches & Objects of Virtu* auction, which will be on show beginning Thursday 26 November in Melbourne and then in Sydney the following week.'

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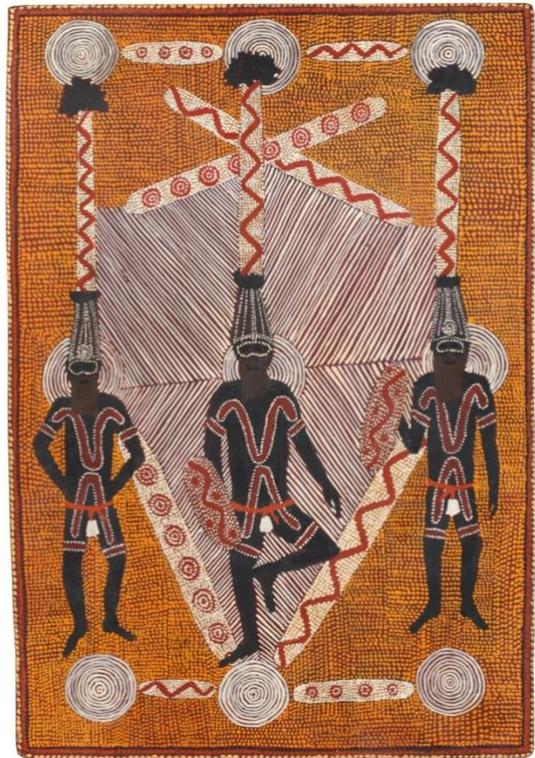
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## FURTHER COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

JOHN OLSEN born 1928  
**People Who Live in Victoria  
Street** 1960  
oil on composition board,  
122 x 182.5 cm  
Estimate \$450,000–650,000  
Sold For \$775,000  
© John Olsen/Copyright Agency, 2020



CLIFFORD POSSUM TJAPALTJARRI circa 1932-2002  
**Rain Dreaming Dance** (1972)  
synthetic polymer paint on composition board,  
51 x 35 cm  
Estimate \$200,000–300,000  
Sold for \$250,000  
© Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri/Copyright Agency, 2020



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## AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art  
Auction, Sydney, 18 November 2020, 6.30 pm  
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Lots on offer: 74  
Total sold: \$6,446,250 including buyer's premium  
Sold by value: 88.78% including buyer's premium  
Sold by volume: 73%

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