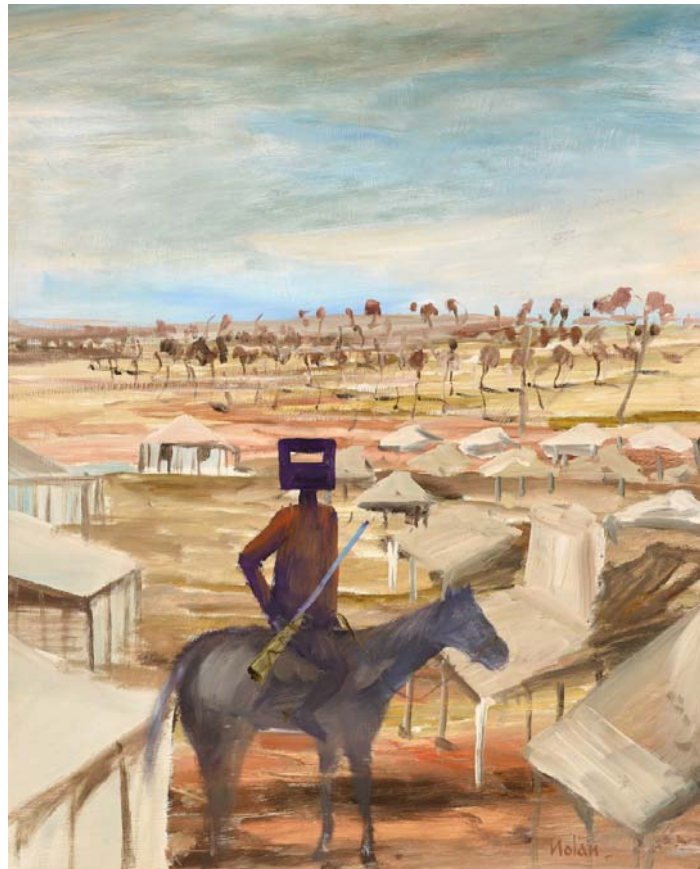


Melbourne 27 February 2017

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Sidney Nolan: A Centenary Exhibition

Masterpieces from Private Collections



Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, *Ned Kelly: Kelly and Township* (1955). Private Collection, courtesy of Sotheby's Australia

The most significant private loan exhibition ever staged in Australia of paintings by Sidney Nolan will be launched at Sotheby's Australia's Sydney premises on Monday 27 March. Coinciding with and celebrating 100 years since the birth of the artist ***Sidney Nolan: A Centenary Exhibition: Masterpieces from Private Collections*** features more than 30 paintings that have been exclusively sourced from Australian and international private collections for a strictly limited two week showing. Many of the works have been hidden from public view since they were created, whilst others have never been reproduced. No works of art are for sale and proceeds from the exhibition and associated events will be directed to support the Opera Australia Capital Fund.

The art of Sidney Nolan is probably more familiar to the public than that of any other Australian artist and his name is synonymously connected with Australia. Nolan is most renowned for his Ned Kelly series based on the life and death of the Australian Outlaw, however, he also created numerous highly regarded paintings on such diverse themes as the Wimmera, St Kilda, Central Australia, Religion, Drought, Gallipoli, Antarctica, and the ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills.

Nolan's most famous images are those which reside in public collections, however, many of his greatest paintings remain in private ownership, at times with the families of the original purchasers. Many of these works will be reunited for the first time since they were painted, including 5 paintings from his astonishing 1955-1956 Ned Kelly series and 2 significant paintings from the 1962 Burke and Wills series. This exhibition will be a rare opportunity for the public to view these works of art together again.

The connection between Opera Australia and Sidney Nolan is a long established one – Nolan was commissioned as set designer for some performances at the Sydney Opera House including Elijah Moshinsky's production of *Il Trovatore* in 1983.



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992, *Feeding the Birds* 1948. Private Collection, courtesy of Sotheby's Australia

'Sidney Nolan is undoubtedly Australia's most internationally recognised artist and the current exhibition is the most significant showing of the artist's paintings since the 2007 retrospective that toured nationally' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia and scholar on the artist. 'It is a privilege to curate and present this major exhibition that honours one of Australia's most influential and beloved artists. We are greatly indebted to the generosity of all the private lenders and their willingness to share their treasured works of art with the broader community and to raise funds for the Opera Australia Capital Fund.'

Jinx Nolan, the artist's daughter commented: 'I am thrilled with this important exhibition of my father's work. Geoffrey has collected an exceptional choice of paintings which are appropriately varied and consistent with the evolution of Sidney's work. To my knowledge, this show is the only one in Australia which celebrates the 100th anniversary of his birth.'

'I am delighted that the Opera Australia Capital Fund is to be the beneficiary of funds raised through this very special Sydney only event. It is a great honour to be linked with an exhibition of work by such a distinguished and cherished artist of the calibre of Sidney Nolan and we hope many of our subscribers and patrons will take the opportunity to visit the exhibition', said Neroli Hobbins of Opera Australia Capital Fund, Sydney.



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992, *Ned Kelly: Crossing the River* 1955. Private Collection, courtesy of Sotheby's Australia

AT A GLANCE

Sidney Nolan: A Centenary Exhibition
Masterpieces from Private Collections

Exhibition to raise funds for the Opera Australia
Capital Fund

Admission: \$20, Concession \$10

Exhibition venue: Sotheby's Australia, 30 Queen
Street, Woollahra NSW

Exhibition dates: 27 March – 9 April, 10am – 5pm



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992, *Approaching Cooper's Creek*
1950. Private Collection, courtesy of Sotheby's Australia

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