

The Estate of the Late David Larwill



PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF THE LATE DAVID LARWILL, MELBOURNE
DAVID LARWILL 1956-2011, *CONTEMPLATING HIS PLACE IN HUMANITY* 2011. ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000 NOVEMBER 2012

SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA is honoured to be appointed exclusive agent to represent the Estate of the Late David Larwill.

David Larwill was a pioneer and leader of a distinctive genre of exuberant, larrikin neo-expressionism that emerged in Australian painting in the 1980s. His premature death in 2011 marked the end of a remarkable career that left an indelible impact on the history and development of Australian art.

Born in 1956 and following studies at Prahran College of Advanced Education and Preston Institute of Technology, Larwill travelled to Europe in 1981, where he absorbed the influence of Jean Dubuffet and of the European CoBra movement. The movement had a keen interest in the raw, direct, figurative forms of expression, and Larwill's work reflected these values for the next 30 years.

Larwill was a founding member of the legendary Melbourne artists' collective Roar Studios. His style was consolidated in that free-wheeling Fitzroy environment of professional autonomy. Further travel exposed him to additional international and Indigenous influences that further articulated his unique and distinctive style.

Throughout his prodigious career, Larwill was included in numerous group exhibitions at state and regional galleries. In 1984 he was included in *Vox Pop* at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, and most recently *Bushfire: Our Community Responds* in 2003. In 1992 the Shepparton Art Gallery hosted a touring exhibition that focused on the *Roar Studio*. Larwill participated in the *Sulman Prize Exhibition* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney in 1994 and 1995. In 2002 the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery co-ordinated the successful touring solo exhibition: *David Larwill: Stuff that Matters*.

A turning point for David Larwill was in 2008 when he selected by the Australian Government for an exhibition in New York. The exhibition *David Larwill & The Western Desert Artists – Australia New York 2008* was hosted by The Hon. John Olsen AO, Consul General of Australia and Lisa Fox, and was held at the Stephen Weiss Studio. As the opening event of the G'Day USA celebrations, the exhibition celebrated Larwill's influence from Australia's Indigenous artists. This valuable experience and time in New York provided many new influences and inspiration from a number of American artists.

David Larwill is represented in numerous important public, corporate and private collections in Australia and overseas: including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne; The Australian Football League Collection, Melbourne; The Holmes à Court Collection, Perth and the British Museum, London.

Larwill's career included several high-profile and diverse commissions, most memorably the Melbourne Tram he painted for the Ministry of the Arts, Victoria, in 1986, and his contribution, with Roar colleagues, of a suite of paintings for the restaurant interior for the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. He was the subject several monographs, including Ken McGregor with Elizabeth Thompson, *David Larwill* (1997) and Gael Ramsay *David Larwill: Stuff that Matters* (2001).



Press Release Melbourne

9 November 2012

For Immediate Release

'Sotheby's Australia has been selected to manage The Estate of the Late David Larwill due to its thorough knowledge of David Larwill and the Australian art market, as well as its strong academic and curatorial approach' said Fiona Larwill, the artist's widow.

'Combining a strong sense of community values with a generosity of spirit, David Larwill was a long-standing supporter of numerous social issues and lent his voice and his art to causes that raised awareness and facilitated change in areas of conservation, Indigenous, and human rights.' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'We look forward to representing David's work and working closely with Fiona and her family to ensure his remarkable legacy endures.'

Sotheby's Australia will manage the works held by the Estate; facilitate copyright and reproduction rights, arrange exhibitions & sales, whilst providing overall academic and research support.

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To arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia, or Fiona Larwill please contact:
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