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Famille-rose 'figural' plaques sell for over 24 times the estimate

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 24 OCTOBER 2018



Two famille-rose 'figural' plaques, 20th century. Estimate \$5,000-7,000. Sold for \$122,000 October 2018

Sotheby's Australia's sale of *Treasures: Important Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* achieved over \$1.57 million for 71 lots sold, with strong results achieved for Asian, Australian & European sculptures and works of art. The sale was positioned as Australia's pre-eminent arts and design auction, which assembled fine ceramics, furniture, paintings, sculpture, works on paper, silver, and objects of vertu, selected for their quality, rarity, beauty and historical significance.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia, commented: 'Objects with a prestigious provenance commanded a premium. This was evidenced by the remarkable results for the various collections presented including property from **The Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation**, **The Estate of the Late Mr Neville H. Grace** and Asian works of art from various **Private Collections**. These works sparked great enthusiasm from both local and international collectors.'

Strongly contested by room, telephone and internet bidders, two famille-rose 'figural' plaques, 20th century, sold for \$122,000 achieving a staggering result 24.4 times higher than the low estimate (estimate \$5,000-7,000, lot 93, pictured previous). One of the plaques depicts Tao Yuanming appreciating chrysanthemum flowers, the sage conversing with a young boy carrying a jardinière of flowers, and with a seal of Wang Dafan. The other depicts the story of Su Shi visiting the Red Cliff, with three figures in a boat, and an inscription signed Wang Dafan.



HENRY GRITTEN 1818-1873, *Melbourne from the Botanical Gardens* 1865. Estimate \$75,000-95,000. Sold for \$91,500 October 2018.

A historically important early view of *Melbourne from the Botanical Gardens* 1865 by Henry Gritten sold for \$91,500 (estimate \$75,000-95,000, lot 46, pictured). The painting combined all of Gritten's virtues; topographical accuracy in the view across the city; horticultural precision in the rendering of the recently-introduced aloes and conifers by Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, as well as the flanking, straggly eucalypts; and social observations in the *staffage* of genteel Melbourne ladies and their children.

Achieving a new auction record for the artist, a sculpture by François-Léon Sicard sold for \$67,100 (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 62, pictured). Consigned from The Estate of the Late Mr Neville H. Grace, the sculpture depicts Apollo, which was a maquette for the J.F. Archibald Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park Sydney.



FRANÇOIS-LÉON SICARD 1862-1934, *Apollo* (1926). Estimate \$50,000-70,000. Sold for \$67,100 October 2018.

Other sale highlights include;

- A gilt decorated agarwood bead necklace sold for \$67,100, 16 times the low estimate of \$4,000 (lot 123);
- *Evening* 1995 by Tim Storrier realised \$46,360, triple the low estimate of \$15,000 (lot 105);
- Opening the evening strongly was Albert Tucker's *Woman* 1950, which tripled the low estimate selling for \$42,700 (estimate \$12,000-18,000, lot 4).

AT A GLANCE

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

Lots on offer: 126

Total sold \$1,572,702 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 56.35%

Sold by value: 66.25%

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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