

Sydney 21 November 2018

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Market Leading Results for Sotheby's Australia

6 lots exceed \$500,000 | 6 lots exceed \$200,000

4 new auction records are set, led by Joel Elenberg's *Mask A* (1979) establishing a new world auction record for an Australian sculpture, Howard Arkley's *House and Native Tree* 1996 achieving a record price for a work on paper by the artist and Garry Shead's *The Bearers (Queen of Suburbia)* 1997 establishing a new world record for the artist.

Sotheby's Australia continues to lead the Australian art auction market with outstanding results for the third consecutive year.



JOEL ELENBERG 1948-1980, *Mask A* (1979). Estimate \$200,000-300,000.
Sold for \$634,400 November 2018. ***World auction record for an Australian sculpture.***
© The Estate of Joel Elenberg.

For the third consecutive year, Sotheby's Australia has continued its market leadership in art auction sales in Australia. With strong buyer interest, the November auction of *Important Australian & International Art from The John Symond AM Collection* and *Important Australian Art* achieved \$8.28 million, with 90.1% sold by value, with our annual art auction result surpassing \$33.75 million.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'For three consecutive years Sotheby's Australia's Important Australian & International Art auctions have sold over \$8 million per sale, demonstrating our consistent market leadership across historical, modern and contemporary Australian Art. The carefully assembled November sale enabled both new and experienced collectors the opportunity to acquire significant works of art created over the span of more than 150 years. Strong prices were achieved in impressionist, modern and contemporary art with Joel Elenberg's *Mask A* (1979) establishing a new world auction record for an Australian sculpture. We were particularly honoured to include important works from The John Symond AM Collection, achieving excellent results including three auction records.'



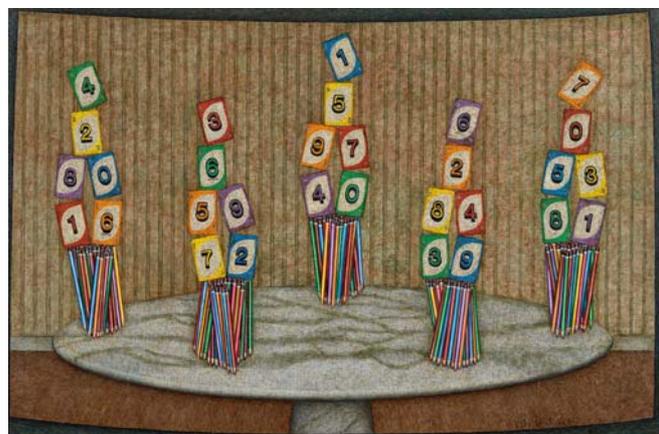
PROPERTY FROM THE JOHN SYMOND AM COLLECTION
HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999
House and Native Tree 1996
Estimate \$80,000-120,000
Sold for \$207,400 November 2018

Work on paper auction record for the artist

© The Estate of Howard Arkley/Licensed by Kalli Rolfe Contemporary Art

The auction was led by Howard Arkley's *House and Native Tree* 1996, a stunning example of Arkley's exploration and celebration of the Australian suburban home, which utilised the artist's signature spray paint style. Establishing a new auction record for a work on paper by the artist, the work fittingly formed part of 'Aussie John' Symond's collection, the person whose home loans helped fulfil for many the great Australian dream of home ownership.

PROPERTY FROM THE JOHN SYMOND AM
COLLECTION
JOHN BRACK 1920-1999
Pantomime 1988-1994
Estimate \$500,000-700,000
Sold for \$610,000 November 2018
© Helen Brack



A quick bid from a person in the room successfully acquired John Brack's *Pantomime* 1988-1994. The work is a prime example of the artist's meticulous and wonderfully anthropomorphic iconography, where inanimate objects seem to possess human characteristics and spring to life.



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992
Nude Beside the Basin 1963
Estimate \$350,000-550,000
Sold for \$829,500 November 2018
© Wendy Whiteley

Nude Beside the Basin 1963 more than doubled its low estimate with gallant bidding by agent Steven Nasteski who secured the work for Wendy Whiteley on behalf of the Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney. The painting was offered for auction for the first time since it was created fifty-five years ago, and is one of the earliest paintings in an extended sequence of oils and charcoals depicting the artist's wife Wendy bathing. Works from the

Bathroom series are some of the most highly regarded made by the artist. Whiteley's *Summer I* 1961 was also acquired by the Brett Whiteley Studio for \$61,000 (estimate \$28,000-38,000).

JOHN RUSSELL 1858-1930
Ariadne 1883
Estimate \$550,000-750,000
Sold for \$671,000 November 2018



John Russell was twenty-four when he painted *Ariadne* following his formal training at one of the world's

leading ateliers. The painting has the hallmarks of the Neo-classical ideal of the late nineteenth century and the influence of Frederic Leighton, with an imposing maiden on the seashore.



JOEL ELENBERG 1948-1980
Mask A (1979)
Estimate \$200,000-300,000
Sold for \$634,400 November 2018
World auction record for an Australian sculpture
World auction record for the artist
© The Estate of Joel Elenberg

A rare and revered sculpture by Joel Elenberg *Mask A* (1979) was one of the final and most refined works in the curtailed *oeuvre* of Joel Elenberg, who died at the point of having served his apprenticeship as a sculptor mastering his beloved medium of stone. The last public exhibition of this work was at the triumphant posthumous exhibition *Joel Elenberg: Sculpture* at Robin Gibson Gallery in 1982.

JOHN RUSSELL 1858-1930
Le Forte d'Antibes (1891)
Estimate \$220,000-280,000
Sold for \$512,400 November 2018



John Russell has long been acknowledged as Australia's finest artist working in the French Impressionist tradition and his remarkable legacy was most recently celebrated in the comprehensive exhibition *John Russell: Australia's French Impressionist* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. *Le Forte d'Antibes* (1891) remains one of the artist's most vivid and alluring compositions and is a splendid example of his vibrant Impressionism with its warm opalescent palette and rich, layered surface.

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CHARLES CONDER 1868-1909
'Arcadia,' June 28th 1889
Estimate \$220,000-280,000
Sold for \$292,800 November 2018

Charles Conder's paintings from *The 9 by 5 Impression Exhibition 1889* remain extremely rare. Selling to a telephone bidder *'Arcadia,' June 28th* is a significant record of Australian

maritime history, capturing the first visit of P&O's newest and fastest steamship *Arcadia*, which boasted ventilated passenger accommodation. The painting had most distinguished provenance; it formed part of the private collection of John Williams Maund, founder of the legal practice J.W. Maund & Kelynack, and trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 1933 to 1956, and in more recent times the painting belonged to noted art collector Benno Schmidt.

Sotheby's Australia achieved 3 new artist auction records;

- o YVONNE AUDETTE, born 1930, *Cantata No. 16* 1958, oil on board, 100 x 85 cm
Sold for \$103,700 (estimate \$60,000-80,000, lot 8)
- o JOEL ELENBERG 1948-1980, *Mask A* (1979), white statuary marble, 96.7 x 54 x 22 cm
Sold for \$634,400 (estimate \$200,000-300,000, lot 18)
- o GARRY SHEAD, born 1942, *The Bearers (Queen of Suburbia)* 1997, oil on canvas, 167.5 x 213 cm
Sold for \$439,200 (estimate \$350,000-450,000, lot 7)
- o The following work established new artist record by medium;
- o HOWARD ARKLEY 1951-1999, *House and Native Tree* 1996, synthetic polymer paint on paper, 160 x 120.5 cm
Record for work on paper, sold for \$207,400 (estimate \$80,000-120,000, lot 1)

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian Art
Including Important Australian & International Art from The John Symond AM Collection
Auction in Sydney, 20 November 2018, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 82
Total sold \$8,280,750 including buyer's premium
Sold by volume: 67.07%
Sold by value: 90.06%

2018 art auction total \$33.75 million

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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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