

Melbourne 15 March 2019

Marlene Cartlidge (03) 9508 9900
marlene.cartlidge@sothebysaustralia.com.au

Important Collection of H.J. Johnstone Landscapes for Auction by Sotheby's Australia

AUCTION IN SYDNEY | 20 MARCH 2019

A collection of four Victorian landscapes by photographer turned artist H.J. Johnstone have returned to Australia for sale.

Previously residing in the United States of America the collection comprises one major and three smaller works. These evocative river and forest landscapes offer a rare opportunity for Australian buyers.



H.J. JOHNSTONE 1835-1907, *A Billabong in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria, Australia* 1878. Estimate \$80,000-100,000.

The English artist Henry James Johnstone was one of the many lured to the goldfields of Victoria and the prosperity that it promised. Johnstone arrived in 1853 but after looking for gold, without success, he established a photographic studio in Melbourne that was to flourish. To further his ambitions as an artist, Johnstone took painting classes with Louis Buvelot and in 1870 enrolled as a student at the National Gallery School of Painting.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: *'We are delighted to repatriate to Australia important paintings by a major artist who practised here during the late nineteenth century and created images of lasting and significant value.'*

By 1872 Johnstone was exhibiting with the Victorian Academy of Arts. It is under this auspice and quite possibly from *The Eighth Exhibition of the Victorian Academy of Arts 1878* that Johnstone's *A Billabong in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria, Australia 1878* originates. There is a luminous twilight within this painting enveloping the landscape and the Indigenous figures within who have hunted for food.

Johnstone painted a number of Australian subjects and the large composition, *Evening Shadows, Backwater of the Murray, South Australia* (1880, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide) together with *A Billabong of the Goulburn, Victoria* (1884, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney) were formative and extremely popular acquisitions by Australian public collections.

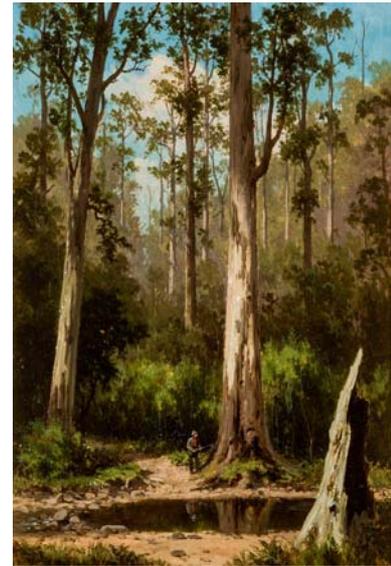
Johnstone departed Australian shores in the late 1870s and was reportedly in California until his return to London in 1880. He continued to paint Australian landscapes often using his photographs as reference. The great detail and stillness of Johnstone's painting attest to this and the sense of melancholy and memory to a landscape, once seen and never forgotten.



H.J. JOHNSTONE 1835-1907
Dawn on the River Goulburn, Australia
oil on card
26.5 x 15.5 cm
Estimate \$5,000-6,000



H.J. JOHNSTONE 1835-1907
Twilight on the River Goulburn, Australia
oil on card
26.5 x 15.5 cm
Estimate \$5,000-6,000



H.J. JOHNSTONE 1835-1907
A Hunter in the Macedon Ranges, Victoria, Australia
oil on card on board
30 x 20 cm
Estimate \$5,000-8,000

AT A GLANCE

H.J. JOHNSTONE
1835-1907

A Billabong in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria, Australia 1878

oil on canvas

50.5 x 76.5 cm

\$80,000–100,000

Collections: Important Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Auction in Sydney, 20 March 2019, 6 pm

The Hughenden Boutique Hotel, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra

Exhibition in Sydney, 14-20 March 2019, 10 am to 5 pm, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

For More News on Sotheby's Australia

VISIT sothebysaustralia.com.au/articles/press

FOLLOW twitter.com/sothebysAUST

JOIN facebook.com/sothebysaustralia

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

Images are available upon request

All catalogues are available online at sothebysaustralia.com.au

Copyright in the image(s) supplied shall remain vested in Sotheby's Australia. Please note that image(s) may depict subject matter which is itself protected by separate copyright. Sotheby's Australia makes no representations as to whether the underlying subject matter is subject to its own copyright, or as to who might hold such copyright. It is the borrower's responsibility to obtain any relevant permissions from the holder(s) of any applicable copyright and Sotheby's Australia supplies the image(s) expressly subject to this responsibility. Note that the image(s) provided is/are for a one-time use only and no permission is granted to alter the image(s) in any way.