

RECORDS TUMBLE  
AT SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA'S  
IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL ART AUCTION

A rare opportunity to buy William Dobell's **Woman in Restaurant (1934)** sparks a furious bidding war to achieve a sensational new world auction record of AUD\$939,400, more than eleven times the estimate of AUD\$80,000-120,000.



WILLIAM DOBELL 1899-1970  
**Woman in Restaurant (1934)**  
Sold for AUD\$939,400 April 2019  
Auction record for the artist

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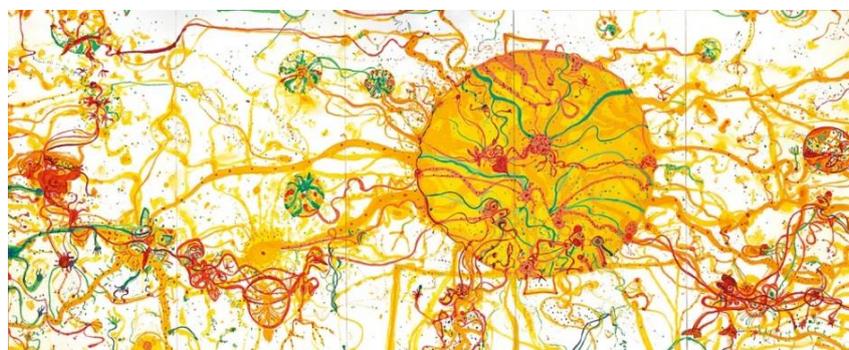
Important Australian & International Art  
Sydney, 9 April 2019

**SYDNEY, 10 April 2019** – Sotheby’s Australia’s first Important Australian & International Art sale of the year saw fiercely competitive bidding resulting in world auction records tumbling. The new world auction records for artists included William Dobell’s **Woman in Restaurant (1934)** (Lot 8, estimate: AUD\$80,000-120,000), achieving an astonishing AUD\$939,400, more than eleven times the estimate of AUD\$80,000-120,000. The painting had last sold at auction in 1962 from the esteemed Norman Schureck Collection for the then record price of 4,500 gns for an Australian painting at auction. Cressida Campbell’s **Interior with Sunflowers and Figs (1998)** (Lot 17, estimate AUD\$80,000-120,000) sold for AUD\$201,300, a new artist record, and the same artist’s **Interior with Wheat (1996)** (Lot 75, estimate AUD\$70,000-90,000) subsequently eclipsed this record moments later, achieving AUD\$256,200. Further exceptional results included John Olsen’s impressive **Seafood Paella 2007** (Lot 27, estimate AUD\$700,000-900,000), sold for AUD\$1,037,000, the highest price of the evening and the second highest price achieved at auction for the artist. Repatriated from the United Kingdom, Sidney Nolan’s **Ned Kelly: Bridge 1964** (Lot 32, estimate AUD\$500,000-700,000), was also highly contested, selling for AUD\$793,000. Irma Stern’s exotic **Congo Landscape 1945** (Lot 62, estimate AUD\$380,000-480,000), realised AUD\$463,600, and represented a unique offering in Australia of a major painting by one of South Africa’s leading artists of the twentieth century.

*Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia, commented: “William Dobell’s **Woman in Restaurant (1934)** became an overnight sensation when it sold for a world record price in 1962. Almost 60 years later, despite all of the enormous changes in our society, the work again captivated collectors as we witnessed a bidding frenzy engulf the auction room. We all watched with amazement as this modest and exquisite composition, replete with pathos and intrigue into the human condition, defied logic and again achieved an iconic status within the history and development of Australian art. Sotheby’s Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the sale of exceptional and defining works of art.”*

#### COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

John Olsen’s vibrant **Seafood Paella 2007** sold for AUD\$1,037,000 (Lot 27, estimate AUD\$700,000-900,000), the second highest price achieved for this artist at auction.



JOHN OLSEN born 1928

**Seafood Paella 2007**

Sold for AUD\$1,037,000 April 2019

© John Olsen/Copyright Agency, 2019

Sidney Nolan's evocative **Ned Kelly: Bridge 1964** attracted competitive bidding to achieve an impressive AUD\$793,000 (Lot 32, estimate AUD\$500,000-700,000).



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992

**Ned Kelly: Bridge 1964**

Sold for AUD\$793,000 April 2019

© The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust/Bridgeman Images

The world auction record for Cressida Campbell tumbled early in the evening with **Interior with Sunflowers and Figs (1998)** selling for AUD\$201,300 (Lot 17, estimate AUD\$80,000-120,000). The record was not held for long as frenetic bidding for **Interior with Wheat (1996)** resulted in a stunning sale price of AUD\$256,200 (Lot 75, estimate AUD\$70,000-90,000).



CRESSIDA CAMPBELL born 1960

Interior with Sunflowers and Figs (1998)

Sold for AUD\$201,300 April 2019

Auction record for the artist (superseded)

© Cressida Campbell/Copyright Agency, 2019



CRESSIDA CAMPBELL born 1960

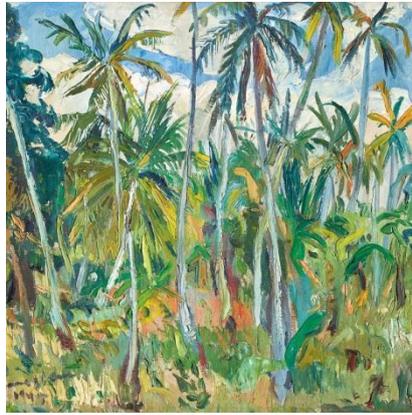
Interior with Wheat (1996)

Sold for AUD\$256,200 April 2019

Auction record for the artist

© Cressida Campbell/Copyright Agency, 2019

**Congo Landscape 1945** by internationally renowned South African artist Irma Stern achieved AUD\$463,600 (Lot 62, estimate AUD\$380,000-480,000).



IRMA STERN 1894-1966  
**CONGO LANDSCAPE 1945**  
Sold for AUD\$463,600 April 2019  
© Irma Stern/Copyright Agency, 2019

#### AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art  
Auction  
Sydney, 9 April 2019, 6.30 pm  
Intercontinental Sydney  
117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 81  
Total sold: AUD \$8,620,020  
Sold by volume: 77%  
Sold by value: 117.8%

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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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