

# The **Rae Rothfield** Collection

Collection of Renowned Philanthropist and Patron totals \$2,343,651 at Auction

46 Records set by Sotheby's Australia for International and Australian Artists

An Exceptional Sold Rate by Value of 153.35% Realised



**MELBOURNE, 24 October 2019** – Last night at Sotheby's Australia, a packed salesroom vied for lots from *The Rae Rothfield Collection*, setting 46 records and realising a total of \$2,343,651. By the end of the auction, 171 lots had sold – achieving a sold rate of by value of 153.35% . The result marks the most significant auction of sculptural work ever held in Australia. No fewer than 5 Australian auction records were realised for renowned international artists, led by Antony Gormley's *MEME CXLIX* 2011 for \$225,700 (lot 9, estimate \$80,000–120,000) – a record for any work by the artist at auction in Australia.

The collection, which was assembled over a lifetime by Rae and her husband Walter, was redistributed to new custodians from around the world in a matter of 2 hours and 50 minutes as clients in the room, on the telephone and online competed for the works bearing her prized provenance.

*Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'The Rae Rothfield Collection attracted collectors from all corners of Australia and around the globe to compete for works by Australian and International Modern and Contemporary artists. Rae Rothfield's renowned eye and dedicated patronage allowed her to assemble a truly remarkable group of works and we are thrilled to have realised such an excellent result on behalf of her family. It was an honour to have been entrusted with its sale and we are delighted that our clients shared our sincere enthusiasm at being a part of such a collection's legacy.*

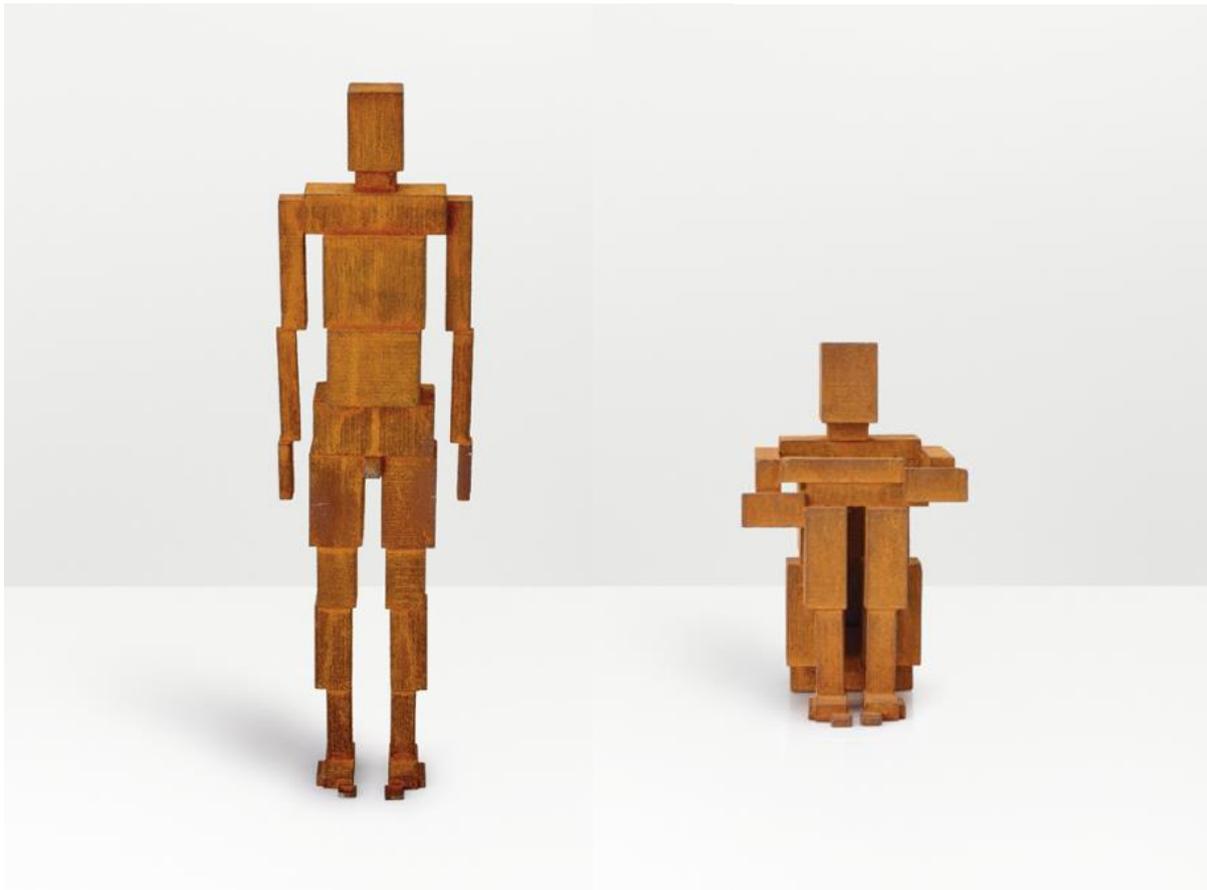
To have set such a score of records – in particular 5 for renowned international artists at auction in Australia including Antony Gormley, Arnaldo Pomodoro and Arman – is immensely gratifying, and we thank all the bidders that took part in yesterday's momentous sale.'

### **RAE ROTHFIELD AS A COLLECTOR**

*The Rae Rothfield Collection* reflected the intelligence and passion of a person with a global perspective, who possessed a deep and abiding interest in, and empathy for, contemporary Australian and international art. A successful businesswoman with a deeply felt concern for the health and welfare of her local and broader community, Rae Rothfield had a strong devotion (some would say compulsive addiction) to collect, display and share paintings, works on paper, and above all, sculpture, with her family, friends and more casual visitors to her home in Melbourne.

Her broadening interest in art coincided with her regular travels throughout Australia and overseas, frequently in the company of her close friends, Loti and Victor Smorgon. Together they would visit artists' studios, galleries, museums, and the homes of private collectors. When Rae 'down-sized' from her large home to her apartment in Toorak (a site that she carefully selected and developed, designing the expansive interior spaces connected by wide corridors and outdoor terraces specifically for her art collection) her collecting paradoxically 'up-sized'. Rae's determination to support the work of contemporary artists, and frequently those who were younger and emerging, took full force, as was her desire to represent certain artists with numerous examples from their career.

## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



ANTONY GORMLEY born 1950

**MEME CXLVI** 2011

cast iron, unique, 36.3 x 9.9 x 2.5 cm

Estimate \$80,000–120,000

Sold for \$213,500

© ANTONY GORMLEY

SECOND HIGHEST PRICE FOR THE  
ARTIST IN AUSTRALIA

ANTONY GORMLEY born 1950

**MEME CXLIX** 2011

cast iron, unique, 17.5 x 10.5 x 12.5 cm

Estimate \$80,000–120,000

Sold for \$225,700

© ANTONY GORMLEY

AUCTION RECORD FOR THE ARTIST  
IN AUSTRALIA



BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992  
**Wendy Under the Shower** 1962  
oil and tempera on board, 76 x 56 cm  
Estimate \$350,000–450,000  
Sold for \$439,200  
© WENDY WHITELEY



LYNN CHADWICK 1914-2003  
**Winged Figures II** (1975)  
bronze, edition 4 of 9, 50.2 x 40 x 38.1 cm  
Estimate \$80,000–100,000  
Sold for \$183,000  
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HENRY MOORE 1898-1986

**Maquette for  
Reclining Figure: Wing**

(1979, cast in 1984)

bronze, edition 6 of 9,  
8.5 x 15.7 x 8.1 cm (including  
base)

Estimate \$70,000–90,000

Sold for \$103,700

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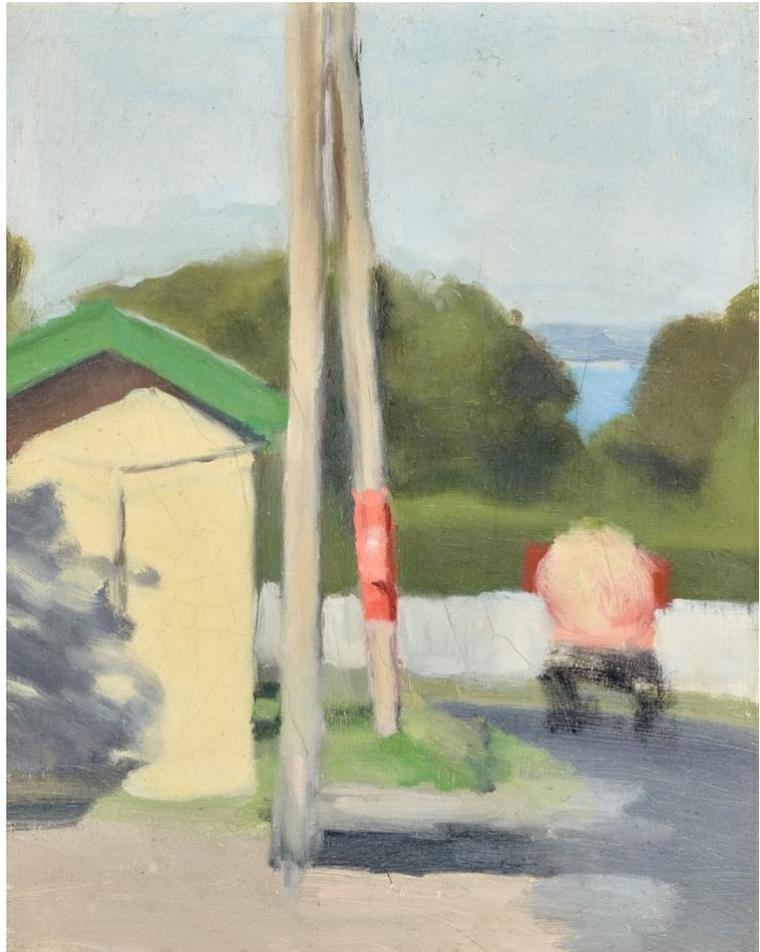
CLARICE BECKETT 1887-1935

**The Bus Stop** (circa 1930)

oil on board, 41 x 34 cm

Estimate \$35,000–450,000

Sold for \$79,300





CLEMENT MEADMORE 1929-2005

**Scronch** 1994

bronze, edition 1 of 8, 25.5 x 27.5 x  
26 cm

Estimate \$25,000–35,000

Sold for \$57,340

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ROBERT KLIPPEL 1920-2001

**No. 264** (1970)

brazed and welded steel,  
geometric sections, found objects,  
41 x 13 x 5 cm

Estimate \$20,000–30,000

Sold for \$85,400

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Klippel Estate, Represented by Annette Larkin  
Fine Art, Sydney and Galerie Gmurzynska,  
Zurich/Copyright Agency, 2019  
Alternate Views

## AT A GLANCE

The **Rae Rothfield** Collection  
Auction in Melbourne, 23 October, 6.30 pm  
Sotheby's Australia, 14-16 Collins Street, 3000

Lots on offer: 215  
Total sold: \$ 2,343,651 including buyer's premium  
Sold by value: 153.35%  
Sold by volume: 79%

2019 art auction total to date: \$25,429,711

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