

Sydney 17 May 2018

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Stunning Results for Australian & New Zealand Art at Sotheby's Australia

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART | IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART FROM THE J.G.L. COLLECTION | AUCTION IN SYDNEY 16 MAY 2018

Highest auction total in Australia for 2018

Seven new artist auction records achieved

Two paintings by Lin Onus exceed the existing auction record and establish \$793,000 as the new auction record for the artist



LIN ONUS 1948-1996 *Fish, Ferns and Rocks* (1995). Sold for \$793,000 May 2018. Auction record for the artist.
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The highest art auction result for 2018 in Australia was achieved at Sotheby's Australia's May auction of **Important Australian Art** including *Important Australian Art from The J.G.L. Collection* when the sale realised \$8,841,584 with 82.31% sold by value. Sotheby's Australia leads the art auction market for 2018 in Australia with \$12.83 million sold. Seven auction records tumbled throughout the evening. Starting early in the sale, William Delafield Cook's *Headland, Hawkesbury River* 1985 realised \$366,000 exceeding the existing record by \$162,000 (estimate \$150,000-200,000, lot 8). Two monumental and highly significant paintings by Lin Onus both exceeded the previous auction record for the artist. Commissioned by Melbourne Airport, *Fish, Ferns and Rocks* (1995) established the new artist auction record of \$793,000 (estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 10, pictured above) and *Fish at Dusk* (1996) realised \$671,000 (estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 11).

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RECORD BREAKING LIN ONUS

The record breaking *Fish, Ferns and Rocks* (realised \$793,000, estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 10) and *Fish at Dusk* (realised \$671,000, estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 11) were

commissioned for Melbourne Airport by Dr Jean Battersby AO

in her role as an arts advisor to the airport corporation. The paintings sold to the same collectors. The compositions are diaphanous waterscapes, in part transparent, in part solid, and remain Lin Onus's most accomplished works. They combine technical virtuosity with Aboriginal concepts of country and knowledge. On the visual plane, the paintings are optical puzzles of light reflecting and refracting off and through the water, of mirror images of objects viewed within the perimeters of the canvas, and the reflections of trees, ferns and sun that stretch beyond the picture plane into the space occupied by the viewer.



LIN ONUS 1948-1996 *Fish at Dusk* (1996). Sold for \$671,000 May 2018. © The Estate of Lin Onus/Licensed by Viscopy, 2018



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992, *Ned Kelly* (1973). Sold for \$561,200 May 2018. © The Sidney Nolan Trust/Bridgeman Images.

CAPTURED BY NOLAN'S NED KELLY

With interest from Australia and overseas, Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly* (1973) sold to an international collector for \$561,200 (estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 46, pictured). By 1973, Nolan's historical-mythical Ned Kelly (like the artist) roamed the world-stage, his epic anti-hero peering from the luminous compositions simultaneously defiant, powerful, doomed and tragic.



GOTTFRIED LINDAUER 1839-1926, *Maori Girl Learning the Haka*. Sold for \$305,000 May 2018. Auction record for the artist.

NEW RECORD FOR NEW ZEALAND ARTIST

An artist auction record of \$305,000 was established for Gottfried Lindauer's *Maori Girl Learning the Haka* (estimate \$250,000-350,000, lot 98, pictured). Selling to an international collector, the painting provided an intimate and rare insight into Māori culture, as a young child is taught by her elders the tribal dance. Lindauer's works are held in many public collections including the Royal Collection Trust, United Kingdom.

Charles Frederick Goldie's *Pokai (The Strategist)* realised \$366,000 (estimate \$250,000-350,000, lot 97). The painting is an exceptional example of Goldie's portraiture, capturing the resolute wisdom of a Māori elder.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Frenetic bidding for Peter Upward's *Crown Street Indigo* 1960 quickly saw the artist achieve a new auction record of \$329,400 quadrupling the high estimate (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 101, pictured). The painting is a masterpiece of twentieth century Australian abstraction and the most significant example of Upward's work to appear at auction. The work is magnificent in confidence, audacious in gestural making and thrilling in colour and texture.



PETER UPWARD 1932-1983, *Crown Street Indigo* 1960. Sold for \$329,400 May 2018. Auction record for the artist.

ARTIST AUCTION RECORDS

Sotheby's Australia achieved 7 new artist auction records.

- LIN ONUS 1948-1996, *Fish, Ferns and Rocks* (1995), synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 200 x 550 cm (diptych)
Sold for \$793,000 (estimate \$450,000-650,000, lot 10)
- DEL KATHRYN BARTON, born 1972, *Of Pollen* 2013, synthetic polymer paint and gouache on polyester canvas, 160 x 140 cm
Sold for \$378,200 (estimate \$100,000-140,000, lot 12, pictured)
- WILLIAM DELAFIELD COOK 1936-2015, *Headland, Hawkesbury River* 1985, synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 121.8 x 182.8 cm
Sold for \$366,000 (estimate \$150,000-200,000, lot 8)
- PETER UPWARD 1932-1983, *Crown Street Indigo* 1960, oil and synthetic polymer paint on board 173 x 134 cm
Sold for \$329,400 (estimate \$50,000-70,000, lot 101)
- GOTTFRIED LINDAUER 1839-1926, *Maori Girl Learning the Haka* (circa 1907), oil on canvas, 59 x 73 cm
Sold for \$305,000 (estimate \$250,000-350,000, lot 98)
- J.W. CURTIS, circa 1839-1901, *Cathedral Stillness*, oil on canvas, 97 x 152.3 cm
Sold for \$67,100 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 132)
- GUY BOYD 1923-1988m *Swimmer* (1981), bronze 113 x 36 x 39 cm (including base)
Sold for \$43,920 (estimate \$10,000-15,000, lot 53)



DEL KATHRYN BARTON, born 1972, *Of Pollen* 2013. Sold for \$378,200 May 2018. Auction record for the artist.
© Del Kathryn Barton/Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

The following works established new artist records by medium:

- NORMAN LINDSAY 1879-1969, *The Blue Hat* 1938, watercolour on paper, 61.5 x 53 cm
Record for a work on paper, sold for \$170,800 (estimate \$100,000-120,000, lot 61)
- ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999 *Image of Modern Evil* (1972) bronze 32.5 x 20 x 13 cm
Record for sculpture, sold for \$89,060 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 112)
- ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999, *Image of Modern Evil* (1972), bronze, 11 x 37 x 17.5 cm
Record for sculpture, sold for \$46,360 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 111)
- GUAN WEI, born 1957, *Cloud B#3* 2012. Bronze. 167 x 90 x 100 cm
Record for sculpture, sold for \$42,700 (estimate \$35,000-50,000, lot 18)

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & New Zealand Art | Important Australian Art from The J.G.L. Collection
Auction in Sydney, 16 May 2018, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 137

Total sold \$8,841,584 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 60.58%

Sold by value: 82.31%

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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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