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Sotheby's Australia Continues Market Leadership with Record Results

IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN ART | AUCTION IN SYDNEY 28 AUGUST 2018

Two paintings sell for over \$1 million, including an auction record of \$1,952,000 for Arthur Boyd's *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959) – Sotheby's Australia now holds the top 5 results for the artist

Sotheby's Australia continues to lead the Australian art auction market with outstanding results of \$22.2 million sold in 2018



ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999, *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959). Sold for \$1,952,000 August 2018. ***Auction record for the artist***
© The Estate of Arthur Boyd/Copyright Agency, 2018

Sotheby's Australia continues its market leadership with \$8.84 million sold at the August auction of **Important Australian Art** with 88% sold by value. Sotheby's Australia has recorded a total of \$22.2 million of art sold in Australia during 2018. A new world auction record for Arthur Boyd's *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959) was achieved, selling for \$1,952,000 (estimate \$1,600,000-1,900,000, lot 20, pictured previous). Sotheby's Australia holds the top five auction results for the artist.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'The market responded enthusiastically to our evening sale and we were thrilled to continue our exceptional results for historical, modern and contemporary Australian Art. It was a privilege to offer masterpieces by Del Kathryn Barton, Arthur Boyd, Rupert Bunny, Ethel Carrick Fox, Grace Cossington Smith, Albert Tucker, Brett Whiteley and Fred Williams, amongst others, and to witness their appreciation. Two new world auction records were established, including the stand-out result of \$1.95 million for Arthur Boyd's *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959).'



FRED WILLIAMS 1927-1982, *Orange Hill* (1966-1967).
Sold for \$1,098,000 August 2018. © The Estate of Fred
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BOYD BRIDE UNVEILS NEW RECORD

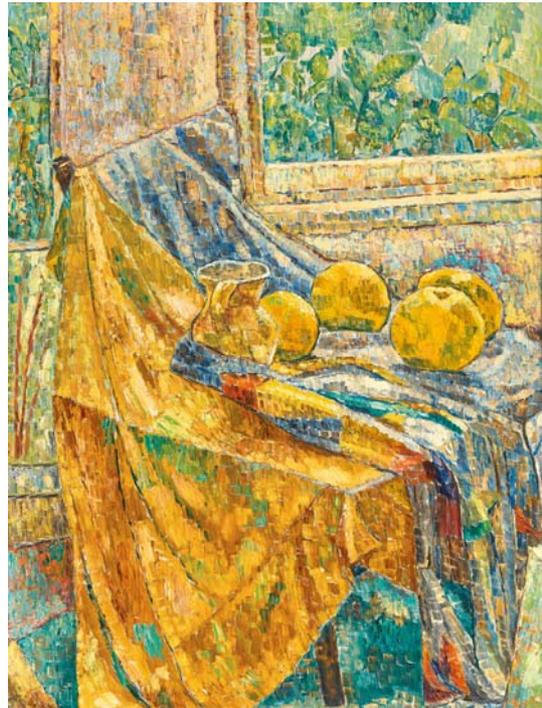
A new world auction record of \$1,952,000 for Arthur Boyd was established with *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959) (estimate \$1,600,000-1,900,000, lot 20, pictured first page). Held in a private Melbourne collection for over 30 years, the painting made its auction debut 60 years after it was painted and first exhibited. *Drowned Bridegroom* is one of the most powerful, tender and monumental of the entire 'Bride' series by Boyd, which articulated his deep concern for social, political and psychological complexities that faced Indigenous Australians during the 1950s.

VISIONARY FRED WILLIAMS

One of the most significant paintings from Fred Williams' Hillside series sold to a telephone bidder for \$1,098,000 (estimate \$800,000-1,000,000 lot 18, pictured). *Orange Hill* is a masterpiece created at a crucial moment in his career, and is a testament to the singular vision of Fred Williams and the heights he reached in redefining the visual vocabulary of the Australian Landscape in the second half of the 20th century.

GRACE COSSINGTON SMITH'S STILL LIFE STIRS BIDDERS

Achieving the highest result for a female artist in 2018 and the second highest price for the artist was Grace Cossington Smith's highly-acclaimed masterpiece, *Fruit in the Window* 1957, which sold for \$451,400 over double the low estimate of \$200,000 (lot 17, pictured). Consigned by the granddaughter of Dr Joseph Brown AO OBE, who was long revered as Australia's most esteemed art dealer, *Fruit in the Window* formed the cornerstone of his personal collection and reveals the artist's domestic environment, a shimmering interior painted in a pointillist manner.



GRACE COSSINGTON SMITH 1892-1984 *Fruit in the Window* 1957. Sold for \$451,400 August 2018. © The Estate of Grace Cossington Smith

CONTEMPORARY TECHNICAL COMMAND

Following tenacious bidding Del Kathryn Barton's *Farewell* 2004 realised \$244,000, delivering another strong result for the contemporary artist (estimate \$150,000-350,000, lot 1, pictured). One of the most significant works by the internationally renowned artist to ever appear at auction, the painting is a *tour de force* that captures Barton's extraordinary vision and technical command. A testament to the artist's singular vision, Barton's work was the recent subject of a major survey exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne in 2017-2018.



DEL KATHRYN BARTON, born 1972, *Farewell* 2004, Sold for \$244,000 August 2018 © Del Kathryn Barton/Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

AUCTION RECORDS

Sotheby's Australia achieved two new artist auction records.

- ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999, *Drowned Bridegroom* (1959), oil and tempera on composition board 122 x 182.8 cm
Sold for \$1,952,000 (estimate \$1,600,000-1,900,000, lot 20)
- GODFREY MILLER 1893-1964, *Summer* (1955-1957), oil, pen and ink on canvas, 64 x 81 cm
Sold for \$231,800 (estimate \$180,000-220,000, lot 42)

The following work established a new Australian record by medium:

- BRETT WHITELEY 1939-1992, PINTON FRÈRES, TAPISSERIE D'AUBUSSON, FRANCE (MANUFACTURER), *The Artist's Studio* (1976), wool and cotton
Australian record for a tapestry, sold for \$213,500 (estimate \$100,000-120,000, lot 24)

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian Art
Auction in Sydney, 28 August 2018, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 67
Total sold \$8,840,120 including buyer's premium
Sold by volume: 76.12%
Sold by value: 88.03%

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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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