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Important Art from The John Symond AM Collection to be Auctioned by Sotheby's Australia

AUCTION IN SYDNEY 20 NOVEMBER 2018



JOHN BRACK 1920-1999, *Pantomime* 1988-1994, oil on canvas, 91 x 137 cm. Estimate \$500,000-700,000. © Helen Brack

Important works from the collection of Aussie Home Loans founder, John Symond AM, will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 20 November 2018 in Sydney. *Important Australian & International Art from The John Symond AM Collection* comprises 14 lots and was assembled with great care and connoisseurship by John Symond over several decades.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia, commented: 'John Symond is a highly discerning collector who possesses great passion and confidence in his personal interests and taste. Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with the sale of a selection of significant works from his private collection that featured prominently in his home *Wingadal* in Sydney's Point Piper. John Symond's collection remains in constant evolution, and the journey continues with Sotheby's Australia.'

One of Australia's best known and inspiring businessmen, John Symond AM is revered by many as the man who took on the banks and brought the dream of home ownership into the reach of thousands of Australians. In 1992 he founded *Aussie Home Loans* and is credited as a positive banking industry disrupter by adding innovation, competition and higher service standards in the Australian home loan market.

Symond's collection is meticulously considered and includes rare examples of art deco furniture, objects in silver and glass through to modern and contemporary

Australian and international art including paintings and sculptures. Consigned to this sale are significant compositions by Howard Arkley, Yvonne Audette, Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, David Boyd, John Brack, Sidney Nolan, Garry Shead, Jeffrey Smart and Tim Storrier.



GARRY SHEAD, born 1942, *The Bearers (Queen of Suburbia)* 1997, oil on canvas, 166 x 212 cm. Estimate \$350,000-450,000.
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HIGHLIGHTS

John Brack's *Pantomime* is a prime example from the artist's revered 'pencil' series. It is not unusual for viewers to ponder Brack's cryptic compositions and unravel the spectacle of dancing pens, pencils and playing cards. Like characters from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* or Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, Brack's pictorial details are wonderfully anthropomorphic, where inanimate objects seem to possess human characteristics and spring to life (estimate \$500,000-700,000, pictured first page).

Garry Shead's *The Bearers (Queen of Suburbia)* 1997 forms a cornerstone of the artist's *The Royal Suite*, which originated from his childhood memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II's first visit to Australia in 1954. The painting illustrates the story of two nations, two classes, two eras and two traditions. Laden with all the pomp and paraphernalia of royalty, *The Bearers (Queen of Suburbia)* depicts the Queen and her consort's arrival at Camp Cove (estimate \$350,000-450,000, pictured).

Jeffrey Smart's *Piazza D'Esedra* 1965 is an important chronicle of Smart's early impressions of Italy. Incorporating the subtle mathematical proportions of Italian Renaissance master, Piero della Francesca, the pervasive metaphysics of Surrealist, Giorgio de Chirico, and the geometric precision of 20th century Realists, Edward Hopper and Alex Colville, Smart created his own visual language in which to capture and celebrate the austere beauty and profundity of life in modern-day Italy. In *Piazza D'Esedra* Smart evokes a palpable sense of mystery with the enigmatic figure of a man loitering beneath the colonnade (estimate \$300,000-400,000, pictured).



JEFFREY SMART 1921-2013, *Piazza D'Esedra* 1965, oil on composition board, 54 x 74.6 cm. Estimate \$300,000-400,000.
© The Estate of Jeffrey Smart

AT A GLANCE

Important Australian & International Art from The John Symond AM Collection

Auction in Sydney, 20 November 2018, 6.30 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Viewing in Melbourne, 8-11 November 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne
Viewing in Sydney, 15-20 November 2018, 10 am to 5 pm, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

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