

PRESS RELEASE

Menzies Major Fine Art Auction

- Sydney, 13th September -

valued at \$9.5 – 12.3 million

Menzies Fine Art Auctioneers' forthcoming auction is to be held on the 13th September in Sydney with an offering of important Australian and international art estimated to bring \$9.5 – 12.3 million.

The auction promises a fine selection of Colonial and Impressionist masterpieces which account for a third of the 102-lot offering.

One of the major highlights of the auction is the exquisite 1915 oil on canvas by Frederick McCubbin entitled *The Mountain Cottage*, listed with an estimate of \$700,000-900,000 and depicting McCubbin's nine-year old daughter, Kathleen, feeding chickens at their home at Mt. Macedon. This artist, together with Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton, was central in establishing the Heidelberg School of painters, the first and arguably still the most important Australian Art Movement. "McCubbin's *The Mountain Cottage* is the largest and most magnificent McCubbin to have come our way since we sold his *Violet and Gold* to the National Gallery of Australia in 2007 for \$1,320,000" says Tim Abdallah, Menzies Head of Art.

Of great international significance is an exceptionally elegant work by the last of the great French Impressionists, Pierre Bonnard's *Bouquet de cheminée* of 1913 (\$750,000 - \$950,000). Having originally come through Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, in 1913, this painting has a very strong provenance.

Also on offer is a fine selection of major works by Modern Australian masters including Fred Williams' *Summer Snow at Perisher* (\$600,000 - 700,000), Brett Whiteley's *Arkie Under the Shower* (\$1,200,000 - \$1,600,000) and *The Orange Table* (\$750,000 - \$950,000), John Brack's *Finale* (\$450,000 - \$600,000), Arthur Boyd's *Stone Crusher, Berwick* (\$120,000 - \$160,000) and Lin Onus' *24 Hours by the Billabong Late Morning* (\$120,000 - \$160,000).

Of a highly specialised Colonial nature is an extremely rare watercolour from 1855 depicting a party of Aborigines by the German Romantic painter Eugene von Guérard (*Aborigines outside Melbourne*) (\$40,000 - \$50,000). The predominantly figurative nature of this work makes it a highly unusual example of the artist's Australian oeuvre. Equally rare is Ludwig Becker's watercolour of Port Arthur, painted four years earlier in 1851 (*Port Arthur (östl Ende)*) (\$50,000 - \$70,000). Most surviving works by Ludwig Becker form a part of major public collections, and as such this is an extremely unusual offering. Along with Frederick Garling's watercolour of Sydney Cove painted from Port Macquarie, *A View of Sydney Cove, New South Wales* (\$18,000 - \$24,000), these works will undoubtedly attract museum collectors, demonstrating the depth of early Australian art in the auction. A number of classic S.T. Gill watercolours, together with some fine early views of Sydney by Conrad Martens, John Rae, and J.S. Prout all painted in the 1840s, are also highlights of the auction.

A small but exquisite oil by Tom Roberts painted in 1889 is of intriguing significance. *Portrait of Alec King* (\$35,000 - \$45,000), depicts one of the joint station owners of Brocklesby Station near Corowra in New South Wales, where Roberts painted his iconic picture *Shearing the Rams* in 1888-90, now held in the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria.

Other fine and rare works by Arthur Streeton, Emanuel Phillips-Fox, Rupert Bunny and Charles Conder combine to form a delightful group of paintings from this period.



Lot 33
FREDERICK McCUBBIN
(1855-1917)
The Mountain Cottage 1915
oil on canvas
75.5 x 91.0 cm
Estimate \$700,000 - \$900,000

About the Auction

On view in Melbourne:

Menzies Gallery
1 Darling St., South Yarra, VIC 3141
Thursday 30 August – Sunday 2 September, 11am - 6pm

On view in Sydney:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
Thursday 6 – Wednesday 12 September, 11am - 6pm

Auction:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
6.30 pm, Thursday 13th September

Menzies Contact:

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