

PRESS RELEASE

Menzies Major Fine Art Auction

- Sydney, 6th December -

valued at \$7 - 9 million

Menzies Fine Art Auctioneers' forthcoming auction is to be held on the 6th December in Sydney with an offering of important Australian and International art estimated to bring approx. \$7 – 9 million.

One of the highlights of the auction is the cover painting Lot 41 *Shrinking Alice* (est. \$340,000 – 420,000) from **Charles Blackman's** celebrated Alice in Wonderland series, painted in 1956 and based on Lewis Carroll's famous book. Five of Blackman's six top prices at auction are for works from this series, and all sold for more than \$500,000. These are rare and important works, which have become even more sought after following the recent National Gallery of Victoria exhibition dedicated to them.

Of international significance is **Andy Warhol's** *Head after Picasso* (Lot 42 est. \$900,000- 1,200,000), a 'superflat' work referencing the Louis Vuitton logo by the Japanese contemporary superstar **Takashi Murakami** *Eye Love Superflat* 2003 (Lot 44, est. \$220,000 – 280,000) and an exquisite domestic-sized bronze by **Aristide Maillol** *Baigneuse Debout se Coiffant, le Coude Levé* (Lot 33, est. \$90,000 – 120,000).

Tim Abdallah, Menzies Head of Art, commented that *"We always like to see a good representation of high level Modern Australian artists, and are delighted with what has been consigned. Some paintings are in the sale at very reasonable prices. Recent auctions have indicated that collectors of early Australian and also International art are becoming an important factor in our business. The December 6th Auction will have something for all collectors."*

A remarkable painting by **John Brack**, formerly part of the celebrated Mertz Collection and prominently featured in the National Gallery of Victoria's recent Retrospective, his quirky and yet typical *Still Life with Artificial Leg* 1963 (Lot 38), is estimated to bring \$240,000-300,000. This was the first of his important 'shop window' series of paintings.

The auction offers a fine selection of Australian Modern Masters, with major works and in-depth representation of **Brett Whiteley** (Lot 43 *Kurrajong* est.\$650,000 – 850,000), **John Brack** (Lot 45 *The Scissors Shop* \$380,000 – 480,000), **Russell Drysdale** (Lot 36 *The Young Ringer* \$350,000 – 420,000), **Lloyd Rees** (Lot 50 *A Song to Creation – Land* est. \$350,000 – 450,000), **John Perceval** (Lot 40 *The Cornfield* est. \$320,000 - \$420,000) and **Jeffrey Smart** (Lot 47 *Campbell Street* 1963 est. \$260,000 – 360,000).

Leading Australian Contemporary artists are also represented; highlights include a major **Garry Shead** from his 'Royal Suite' *Visitation (Large)* 1996 (Lot 39, est. \$260,000 – 320,000), **William Robinson's** *Sunlit Creek Purlingbrook* 2004 (Lot 27, est. \$45,000 – 55,000) and **John Kelly's** *Three Cows Stacked* 2001 (Lot 37, est. \$180,000 – 240,000).

A rare **Tom Roberts** portrait of his son Caleb (Lot 53 est. \$40,000 – 60,000) dating from c1905 and **Eugene von Guérard's** *Ferntree Gully [sic]* (Lot 28 est. \$65,000 – 85,000) closely related to his famous painting of the same subject in the National Gallery of Australia, will benefit from the recent resurgence of market interest in the Australian Colonial and Impressionist periods.



Lot 41
CHARLES BLACKMAN
Shrinking Alice 1956
Tempera and oil on board
121.0 x 132.5 cm
Estimate \$340,000 - \$420,000

About the Auction

On view in Melbourne:

Menzies Gallery
1 Darling St., South Yarra, VIC 3141
Thursday 22 November – Sunday 25 November, 11am - 6pm

On view in Sydney:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
Thursday 29 November – Wednesday 5 December, 11am - 6pm

Auction:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
6.30 pm, Thursday 6th December

Contact:

Rod Menzies, Chairman, Menzies Art Brands
rodmenzies@menziesgroup.com.au
03 9832 8710