

PRESS RELEASE

Menzies Major Fine Art Auction – Sydney, 27th June – valued at \$7.4 – 9.7 million

Menzies Fine Art Auctioneers' forthcoming auction of important Australian and International art estimated to bring between \$7.4 – 9.7 million.

Featured on the cover of the catalogue is **Ian Fairweather's** c1934 painting *Village* (Lot 40 est. \$120,000 – 140,000). A rare work by this most celebrated artist, it dates from a period in Fairweather's work when his work was in transition, increasingly influenced by Chinese calligraphy and landscape painting. The second, much later Fairweather in the sale *Composition V* 1969 (est. \$300,000 - \$380,000) shows the culmination of his artistic development into almost complete abstraction.

Of particular note to the market which is always seeking 'finds' is a work by **Charles Blackman** *Conversation* 1960 (Lot 36, est. \$90,000 -120,000) that has returned to Australia from America, where it has been in a private collection since the 1960s. The current owner was thrilled to see it in the catalogue, commenting "*Instead of it remaining stuck in my mind as a fixture on the wall of my parents' foyer, the painting has finally drawn me in and for the first time I feel able to study it.*"

A work that may be destined to return to the U.S., is the contemporary artist and sometime fashion muse (for Mark Jacobs) **Rachel Feinstein's** *Wagenburg* 2001. The installation is an outstanding example of her baroque-inspired fantasy style. First exhibited in New York at Marianne Boesky Gallery, the present owner loaned it to the artist's solo show *Tropical Rodeo* in Dijon, France in 2006-2007.

For collectors of museum-quality works **John Brack's** major oil *Double Nude 1* 1982-83 (Lot 42), is on offer with an estimate of \$1,000,000 - \$1,400,000, and the impressive bronze by **Auguste Rodin** *La Femme accroupie, grand modèle avec une terrasse plus haute* is estimated to bring between \$1,000,000 - \$1,250,000 (Lot 41).

Tim Abdallah, Menzies Head of Art, commented that "*Rodin is arguably the greatest sculptor ever – his works are known worldwide and 'La Femme accroupie' – a life-size nude – is a museum quality piece that we are very proud to be able to offer.*"

The auction offers a fine selection of Australian Modern Masters, such as **Brett Whiteley** (5 works, including Lot 55 *Study for Autumn (Near Bathurst) – Japanese Autumn* est.\$60,000 – 80,000), **Russell Drysdale** (Lot 45 *Portrait of an Aboriginal Girl* \$100,000 – 130,000), **Arthur Boyd** (4 works, including Lot 33 *Sheep Shelter Wimmera Landscape* est. \$80,000 – 100,000), **Grace Cossington Smith** (Lot 31 *Wildflowers in Jug* est. \$70,000 - \$90,000) and **Jeffrey Smart** (Lot 37 *Holiday* 1971 est. \$750,000 - \$950,000, and Lot 44 *Taxi Stand, Brisbane Art Gallery* est. \$280,000 - \$380,000).

Leading Australian Contemporary artists are also represented; highlights include two major oils by **Rick Amor** of museum interiors: *The Silence* 2001 (Lot 32 est. \$55,000 - \$75,000) and *Across History* 2000 (Lot 54 est. \$50,000 - \$60,000), and there are also eye-catching pieces by **Criss Canning**, **Adam Cullen**, **David Larwill**, **Ben Quilty**, **Craig Ruddy**, and **Michael Zavros**.



Lot 40
IAN FAIRWEATHER (1891-1974)
Village c1934
Oil on paper
40.0 x 55 cm
Estimate \$120,000 - \$140,000

About the Auction

On view in Melbourne:

Menzies Gallery
1 Darling St., South Yarra, VIC 3141
Thursday 13 June – Sunday 16 June, 11am - 6pm

On view in Sydney:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
Thursday 20 June – Wednesday 26 June, 11am - 6pm

Auction:

Menzies Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, NSW 2033
6.30 pm, Thursday 27th June