

PRESS RELEASE

16 February 2010

Nolan's Ned Kelly Masterpiece to be sold to fund Charitable Projects

Menzies Art Brands to auction 'First-Class Marksman' on 25 March for expected Australian art record price

The Vizard Foundation today announced that it has instructed Menzies Art Brands to sell the iconic 1946 Australian Ned Kelly series masterpiece 'First-Class Marksman' by Sir Sidney Nolan.

"The painting will be put to auction on 25 March at Sydney, with an estimated auction price of \$3 million to \$5 million," said Mr Rod Menzies, Chairman of Menzies Art Brands. "We are thrilled to be entrusted with the sale of this important iconic work, which we believe will set a new benchmark for Australian art at auction. The current highest price for an Australian work of art is \$3.48 million, for a Brett Whiteley painting that was auctioned by Menzies Art Brands in 2007."

"The 'First-Class Marksman' was the only painting in the Ned Kelly series retained by Nolan and is now the only painting in the series not in the National Gallery of Australia," said Mr Roger McIlroy, of Nevill Keating McIlroy Ltd., art advisor to the Vizard Foundation. "The estimated price is in line with important works that have been sold in recent years both nationally and internationally. It is also reflective of expressions of interest received from interested possible purchasers."

'First-Class Marksman' was acquired by the Vizard Foundation as a donation from Mr Stephen Vizard in 1992. It has since been on permanent display at the National Gallery of Victoria. It has also featured at several significant exhibitions in Australia and internationally, including at the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

The proceeds of the sale will be wholly used by the Vizard Foundation to extend its support of a number of the Foundation's charitable projects. These will include:

- A substantial donation to the National Gallery of Victoria.
- Providing funds to the University of Melbourne to enable the training of indigenous curators and to provide artistic and financial support for Australian artists.
- To extend the Foundation's program of donation to underprivileged communities within Australia

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"The NGV is saddened to lose this iconic Nolan but we appreciate the considerations of the Vizard Foundation," said Dr Gerard Vaughan, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria. "We have been lucky to enjoy the work on our walls for the past 20 years and acknowledge the generosity of the Vizard Foundation in allowing millions of visitors to see and appreciate this major work. We are also very grateful for the promise of a substantial donation to the NGV that will come through the sale of the painting, to support curatorial, educational and scholarly activities".

Dr Chris McAuliffe, Director of The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne said "The University of Melbourne has been fortunate to have enjoyed the long-term patronage of the Vizard Foundation and we are thrilled that we are to further gain from their philanthropy with the sale of this picture. Over the years, the Vizard Foundation has helped the University initiate innovative programs in art and cinema studies, and a decade-long acquisition campaign targeting contemporary art. With new support, we hope to pursue initiatives focused on mid-career artists and indigenous curators."

"The Foundation's decision to sell the painting was made easier by the sheer quality of the charitable projects that we will fund through the proceeds," said Professor Andrew Vizard, Chairman of The Vizard Foundation. "I feel sure that Nolan would approve".

ENDS..

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APPENDIX AND NOTES TO EDITORS

About 'First-Class Marksman'

See attached catalogue for details

See also attached top 10 Australian art auction prices

About the Auction

On view in Melbourne:

Menzies Art Brands Gallery
1 Darling St, South Yarra 3141
11 March to 14 March
11am-6pm daily

On view in Sydney:

Menzies Art Brands Gallery
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, 2033
18 March to 24 March
11am – 6pm daily

Auction:

Menzies Art Brands
12 Todman Ave, Kensington, 2033
6.30 pm, Thursday 25 March.

Menzies Art Brands Contact:

Rod Menzies, Chairman, Menzies Art Brands

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03 9832 8700 or 0427585543

About The Vizard Foundation

The Vizard Foundation is a philanthropic foundation established in 1991 by the Vizard Family.

The Foundation provides charitable support to a wide range of institutions and organisations and has sponsored major programs aimed at enhancing education, arts, healthcare and underprivileged communities within Australia.

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The Foundation has been funded solely by members of the Vizard Family. The Chairman and sole representative of the Vizard Family since 2005 is Professor Andrew Vizard.

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SIDNEY NOLAN

(1917-1992)

First-Class Marksman 1946

Ripolin enamel on composition board

91.0 x 121.0 cm

signed with initials and dated lower

right: 12.12.46/ N.

signed, dated and inscribed verso: NOT

FOR SALE/ PROPERTY OF THE ARTIST/

THE MARKSMAN/ NOT FOR SALE/ 1946

NOLAN



Provenance:

The artist to Sunday Reed, Melbourne 1948

The Museum of Modern Art and Design of Australia (Heide from 1958)

Sweeney Reed, Melbourne (with Southern Cross Galleries)

Alistair McAlpine, United Kingdom mid 1970s

The Sir Sidney Nolan Trust, United Kingdom

Sotheby's Australia, Melbourne, 14 August 1989, lot 296A

Alistair McAlpine, United Kingdom (acquired through Lauraine Diggins Fine Art,

Melbourne)

The Vizard Foundation, Melbourne 1992

Exhibited:

The 'Kelly' paintings of Sidney Nolan 1946-47, Velasquez Gallery, Melbourne, April 1948, cat.6

Sidney Nolan: Un groupe d'oeuvres du peintre Australien, Maison de L'Unesco, Paris, December 1949, cat.6

Sidney Nolan: una serie di quadri ad olio del pittore australiano, Libreria ai Quattro Venti, Rome, 17 - 31 October 1950, cat.5

Sidney Nolan: The 'Kelly' paintings 1946-47, The Gallery of Contemporary Art, Melbourne, June - July 1956, cat.6

The Museum of Modern Art of Australia: a Melbourne Collection, David Jones' Art Gallery, Sydney, 18 February - 7 March 1959, cat.96 (catalogued but not exhibited)

Sidney Nolan, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 17 January - 7 March 1976, cat.12, (illus.) as "The marksman 1946"

Sidney Nolan, Oeuvres d'un grand peintre Australien, Australian Embassy, Paris, 16 June - 28 July 1978, cat.4 as "The marksman" 1946

Sidney Nolan: paintings, drawings and theatre design, Grosvenor Museum, Chester, 22 July - 18 September 1983, no.3 (illus.)

Sidney Nolan: Landscapes and Legends, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 3 June - 26 July 1987, and toured, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 11 August - 27 September 1987, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, 21 October - 29 November 1987, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 15 December 1987 - 31 January 1988 (illus. exhibition catalogue, p.77)

Sidney Nolan: The Ned Kelly Story, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 19 April - 4 September 1994 (illus.)

The Ned Kelly Paintings: Nolan at Heide 1946-47, Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Victoria, 18 March - 18 May 1997, cat.36, (illus)

Great Australian paintings from Melbourne Private Collections, Royal Children's Hospital Foundation Fundraiser Exhibition, Deutscher Fine Art, Melbourne, 30 May - 15 June 1997, no 24 (p.45 illus.)

Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly Series, New Zealand Festival of Arts, 2002, City Gallery Wellington, 23 February - 19 May 2002

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Common Wealth: A Tribute to Federation, National Gallery of Victoria on Russell, Melbourne, 11 April 2001-19 January 2002

Sidney Nolan 1917-1992, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. 2 November 2007 - 3 February 2008 and touring; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 22 February - 18 May 2008, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 6 June - 31 August 2008

Reference:

Melville, R., *Ned Kelly: 27 Paintings by Sidney Nolan*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1964, p.46 (illus., p.10, pl.6)

Lynn, L., *Sidney Nolan: Myth and Imagery*, Macmillan, London 1967, p.9

Krüger, W., 'Sidney Nolan im Moderna Museet Stockholm' *Studio International*, London, vol.20, nos 4-5, April-May 1976 (illus.)

Lynn, E & Semler, B., *Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly: the Ned Kelly paintings in the Australian National Gallery and a selection of the artist's sketches for the series*, Australian National Gallery, Canberra, 1985, pp.7,13, 50 (illus.)

Gilchrist, M., (book review), 'Ned Kelly at the Australian National Gallery', *Art and Australia*. Fine Arts Press, Sydney, Summer 1985, vol.23, no.1, pp.178-180

Clark, J., *Sidney Nolan: Landscapes and Legends: a retrospective exhibition: 1937-1987*, International Cultural Corporation of Australia Ltd, Sydney, 1987, p.76 (illus., p.77 & cover detail)

Cochrane, P., 'Nolan sale tipped to break record', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 August 1989

Cochrane, P., '£392,858 record for Australian art', *The Daily Telegraph*, London, 15 August 1989

Brown, H., 'Nolan's journey to paradise', *The Weekend Australian*, *The Australian Magazine*, 21 - 22 October 1989

Sayers, A., *Sidney Nolan: The Ned Kelly Story*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1994, pp.28, 36 (illus., p.36)

Reeder, W. (ed), *The Ned Kelly Paintings: Nolan at Heide 1946-47*, Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Victoria, 2000

Bail, M., & Sayers, A., *Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly: the Ned Kelly paintings in the National Gallery of Australia*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2002, pp.11,16-19,30-31 (illus.)

Rosenthal, T.G., *Sidney Nolan*, Thames and Hudson, London, 2002, pp.62, 68 (illus.)

Pearce, B., *Sidney Nolan 1917-1992*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2007, cat.29, p.231 (illus. p.118)

Estimate \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000

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Ten Highest Prices Achieved at Auction for Art in Australia

| Price | Artist Name | Title | Auction House |
|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| \$6,900,000 | Pablo Picasso | <i>Sylvette</i> 1954 | Deutscher ~ Menzies, Sydney, 18/06/2008 |
| \$3,480,000 | Brett Whiteley | <i>The Olgas for Ernest Giles</i> 1985 | Deutscher ~ Menzies, Sydney, 13/06,2007 |
| \$3,360,000 | John Brack | <i>The Old Time</i> | Sotheby's Australia, Sydney, 7/05/2007 |
| \$3,120,000 | John Brack | <i>The Bar</i> | Sotheby's Australia, 11/04/2006 |
| \$2,880,000 | Brett Whiteley | <i>Opera House</i> | Sotheby's Australia, Sydney, 7/05,2007 |
| \$2,400,000 | Clifford Possum | <i>Warlugulong</i> 1977 | Sotheby's Australia, Melbourne, 24/07/2007 |
| \$2,312,500 | Frederick McCubbin | <i>Bush Idyll</i> | Christie's, Sydney, 17/08/1998 |
| \$2,040,000 | John Brack | <i>Backs and Fronts</i> 1969 | Deutscher ~ Menzies, Sydney, 13/06/2007 |
| \$2,040,000 | Brett Whiteley | <i>'Frangipani and Humming Bird' – Japanese: Summer</i> | Sotheby's Australia, Sydney, 28/08/2006 |
| \$1,982,500 | Brett Whiteley | <i>The Jacaranda Tree (On Sydney Harbour)</i> 1977 | Christie's, Sydney, 17/08/1999 |
| \$1,982,500 | Eugene von Guérard | <i>A View of Geelong</i> | Christie's, Melbourne, 29/04/1996 |

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