

MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 13 February 2017

(EMBARGO UNTIL MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY)

THE LOWENSTEIN COLLECTION OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN ART TO BE OFFERED AT AUCTION AS COMPANY PREPARES FOR A NEW ERA

Melbourne – Over 250 works from The Lowenstein Collection of Modern & Contemporary Australian Art are to be offered at auction as the firm prepares for a new era. Featuring paintings, works on paper and sculpture by many of Australia's greatest artists, the auction, which is valued at \$2 million, will take place at Mossgreen in Melbourne on Tuesday 7 March.

Tom and Sylvia Lowenstein occupy a unique position in the Australian art world. As patrons, collectors and close confidantes to many artists they have created a collection that represents the very best of modern and contemporary Australian art.

In the words of art critic Sasha Grishin, the Lowensteins Collection is 'outstanding', 'assembled in a unique manner and characterized by a number of superb works of art.'

Founded by Tom Lowenstein over 40 years ago, Lowensteins Arts Management has built a reputation on advising and managing the accounts of visual artists, writers and musicians.



John Olsen (b. 1928) | Rabbit Warren, Rydal 1948 | Estimate: \$120,000-150,000

As Tom prepares to hand over the day to day management of the company to his business partners Evan Lowenstein and Adam Micmacher, the decision has been made to sell 255 works from the corporate collection which will enable Lowenstein's to continue their support of the next generation of Australian artists and importantly, to continue collecting.

Leading the auction is *Rabbit Warren, Rydal* 1997 (Lot 49, \$120,000-150,00) by John Olsen. Painted on his property in New South Wales' Central Tablelands, *Rabbit Warren, Rydal* displays all of the characteristics of Olsen's best works. With its distinctive, playful brushstrokes and earthy, ochre red palette, the raw beauty of the Australian landscape is eloquently captured by one of this country's most celebrated artists.



Charles Blackman (b.1928) | *Women Lovers* circa 1980 | Estimate: \$45,000-55,000

Another highlight, the catalogue cover lot, is Charles Blackman's *Women Lovers* 1980 (Lot 62, estimate: \$45,000-55,000) which was painted at a time of personal happiness and critical acclaim for the artist. Like Olsen, Blackman's *joie de vivre* is ever present in his work and this sensuous painting reflects his love of beauty, depicting a scene of youthful innocence as two women embrace in sleep, alongside their companion and voyeur, a black cat.

Garry Shead is another prominent artist represented in the collection and this auction features two of his works; *Thirroul Morning* 1994 (Lot 28, estimate: \$90,000-120,000) from his well-known *D.H. Lawrence* series and *The Measuring Artist* 2003-4 (Lot 42, estimate: \$35,000-38,000), an homage to his wife and muse, Judith Shead.

Mossgreen CEO, Paul Sumner said, "The Lowenstein Collection is a remarkable and personal collection, overflowing with stories of the artists' connections to Tom and Sylvia." He continued, "The collection is a snap-shot of an artistic era seen through the eyes of one of the most influential and best loved couples in the Australian art scene over recent decades." And, "We are delighted to work alongside Tom and Sylvia, whose guidance, friendship and support has benefited so many, myself included. This auction will, I am sure, be a fitting tribute to that."



Garry Shead (b. 1942) | *Thirroul Morning* 1994 | Estimate: \$90,000-120,000

The auction also includes works by Arthur Boyd, Margaret Olley, Tim Storrier, Rick Amor, Robert Klippel, Ben Quilty and Akio Makigawa as well as John Coburn and Freddie Timms among many others.

[Click here to watch a video interview with Tom and Sylvia Lowenstein.](#)

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THE LOWENSTEIN COLLECTION OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART VIEWING

Sydney: 10-12 February

Mossgreen

36-40 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Brisbane: 17-19 February

Brisbane City Hall, Kedron Room

Adelaide Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

Melbourne: 3-7 March

Mossgreen

926-930 High Street, Armadale VIC 3143

AUCTION

Tuesday 7 March, 6pm

Mossgreen

926-930 High Street, Armadale VIC 3143

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ABOUT MOSSGREEN

Founded in 2004, Mossgreen is Australia's first and only combined auction house and art gallery specialising in the auction of private collections and the representation of a select group of Australian artists.

Mossgreen Auctions is Australia's largest multi-department auction house, offering expertise and auctions in Fine Australian & International Art, Australian Indigenous Art, Australian & Colonial History, Asian Art, Fine Jewels & Watches, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Motorcycles & Automobilia, Fine Wines, Sporting Memorabilia and Stamps & Coins. In early 2016, Mossgreen acquired long-established New Zealand auction house Webb's and in June of the same year, opened the doors to its new, three-storey premises in the heart of Sydney's art and antiques district on Queen Street, Woollahra.

In addition to headquarters in Melbourne and Sydney, Mossgreen has representatives in London, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart and Perth.

www.mossgreen.com.au