

# Smith&Singer

Melbourne | +61 (0)3 9508 9900 | Thomas Austin | [Thomas.Austin@smithandsinger.com.au](mailto:Thomas.Austin@smithandsinger.com.au)

## THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VERONICA (VERA) KOLMAN CONSIGNED BY SMITH & SINGER

*Diverse Collection Examining Australian Modernism to be Offered this November*

*Paintings & Sculptures by Blackman, Boyd, Campbell, Dobell, Epstein, Herman, Klippel, Meadmore, Nolan, Olsen, Perceval, Tucker & Whiteley, Amongst Others*



**MELBOURNE, 11 November 2020** – A select group of works from the discerning collection of the late Veronica (Vera) Kolman will be offered within the forthcoming auction of *Important Australian & International Art* at Smith & Singer on 18 November 2020. For Gary Singer, CEO & Director of Smith & Singer, the consignment of the Kolman Estate holds a special personal significance. Mr Singer's father, George, and Vera's husband, Joe, were partners in Fairline Furniture, one of Australia's first, large, successful lounge furniture manufacturing companies, established in the late 1940s. The Kolman and Singer families became firm friends and, after Joe's untimely death in 1998, Vera remained an extended member of the Singer family.

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## JOE & VERA KOLMAN: PATRONS AT THE BIRTH OF AUSTRALIAN MODERNISM

With their appreciation of design, Joe and Vera Kolman were avid supporters of contemporary Australian art in the 1960s. At that time, only a small band of people were collecting local art, however, the young couple became aware of the re-awakening of artistic activity in Sydney which, in the short history of Australian painting, had few parallels.

The Kolmans bought their first painting in 1961 when prices were still relatively inexpensive. What started as a hobby – each Saturday scouring the little galleries that were starting to pop up in Paddington – kickstarted a serious dedication as their understanding and appreciation of art developed. A friend of theirs worked for the Barry Stern Galleries run by notable art dealer, Barry Stern. Rowdy parties were held at the friend's home with Stern and many artists attending. On one occasion, a well-known Australian artist leapt onto the dining table and proceeded to paint a picture on the ceiling with the smoke from a lit candle.



SIDNEY NOLAN 1917-1992

**Leda and Swan 1960**

synthetic polymer paint and polyvinyl acetate on  
composition board, 122 x 152.5 cm

Estimate \$40,000–60,000

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Over the years, the Kolmans' collection grew to become a *Who's Who* of modern Australian art including paintings by Sir Sidney Nolan, Sir William Dobell, Ray Crooke, Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, Norman Lindsay, plus many other prominent artists. Complementing these are sculptures, notably a bronze by Robert Klippel, based on the urban environment and composed of found machinery objects (pictured below); a classic Clement Meadmore bronze, and a brightly-coloured, lyrical, John Perceval Aubusson tapestry.

*Gary Singer, CEO & Director of Smith & Singer commented:* 'I recall visiting the Kolman home as a child and being transfixed by the paintings hanging on the walls. Included in the collection is a large Sidney Nolan, *Leda and Swan* 1960 (lot 64, estimate \$40,000–60,000, pictured above), which is a challenging and major example from the highly acclaimed series first exhibited in London in 1960.

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Vera had an innate ability to spot artistic talent and enjoyed telling the story of many years ago dragging Joe to the Surry Hills studio of a newly-discovered artist. Once there, Joe could only focus in dismay on the artist's drug paraphernalia and girly magazines, but Vera convinced him that purchasing from Brett Whiteley was a good idea! Whiteley's linocut *Fruit Dove* (1980) (lot 63, estimate \$4,000–6,000) forms an integral part of the Kolman collection.'



Gary Singer, CEO & Director, Smith & Singer, and Veronica (Vera) Kolman at Smith & Singer (formerly Sotheby's Australia) in August 2014

Vera continued her passion for collecting art right until her death last year aged 89. Her most recent acquisition was a stunning woodblock by Cressida Campbell, *Wheat and Sky* (2016) (lot 67, estimate \$100,000–150,000, pictured top), which had been exhibited in Berlin.

*Mr Singer continues:* 'Works by Cressida Campbell are exceedingly rare as they are carved and painted in so much detail that the output is limited. Each can take a month to produce. In a way, the work bookmarks this extraordinary collection, which was begun with the paintings and sculptures from the avant-garde of Australian Modernism in the 1960s and finished with one of the most distinguished contemporary artists working in Australia today. Smith & Singer is honoured to have been entrusted with the sale of these pieces, and I personally look forward greatly to introducing our clients to the artworks that my dear, life-long friends, Vera and Joe, spent their lives cherishing and sharing.'

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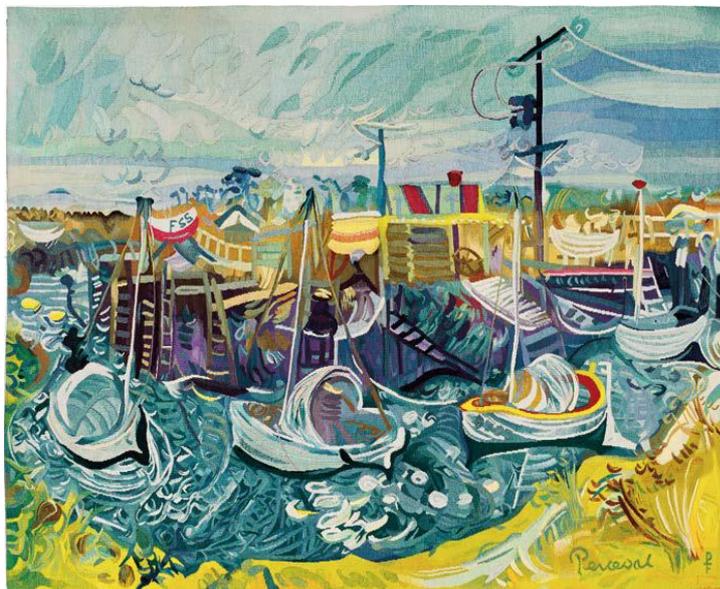
## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



ARTHUR BOYD 1920-1999  
**Bride with Blue Flowers** (1969)  
oil on canvas, 51 x 63 cm  
Estimate \$30,000–50,000  
© Arthur Boyd/Copyright Agency, 2020



ROBERT KLIPPEL 1920-2001  
**No. 967** (1974)  
bronze, artist's proof from an  
edition of 3 plus artist's proofs,  
67.5 cm high  
Estimate \$35,000–45,000  
© Andrew Klippel. Courtesy of The Robert Klippel  
Estate, represented by Annette Larkin Fine Art,  
Sydney and Galerie Gmurzynska, Zurich/Copyright  
Agency, 2020



JOHN PERCEVAL 1923-2000  
TAPISSERIE D'AUBUSSON, FRANCE  
(MANUFACTURER)  
**Fisherman's Inlet, Tooradin** (1975)  
wool and cotton, edition 1 of 6,  
156 x 195 cm  
Estimate \$35,000–45,000  
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## AT A GLANCE

PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VERONICA (VERA) KOLMAN, SYDNEY

Pictured Top (photographer: Greg McBean)

CRESSIDA CAMPBELL born 1960  
*Wheat and Sky* (2016)  
watercolour on incised woodblock  
87 x 120 cm  
Estimate \$100,000–150,000  
© Cressida Campbell/Copyright Agency, 2020

ROBERT KLIPPEL 1920-2001  
*No. 967* (1974)  
bronze, artist's proof from an edition of 3 plus artist's proofs  
67.5 cm high  
Estimate \$35,000–45,000  
© Andrew Klippel. Courtesy of The Robert Klippel Estate, represented by Annette Larkin Fine Art, Sydney and Galerie Gmurzynska, Zurich/Copyright Agency, 2020

Lots 54–74  
Combined Estimate \$377,000–550,000

Important Australian & International Art  
Estimate: \$7,261,000–10,283,000, 74 lots  
Auction, Sydney, 18 November 2020, 6.30 pm  
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

**The health of our clients, employees and community is of paramount importance. We have implemented stringent protocols within our premises, including social distancing, frequent hand and area sanitising, and a maximum number of clients in each exhibition at any time. Full details are available upon request.**

**Viewings in Sydney** 11-18 November 2020, 10 am to 5 pm  
30 Queen Street, Woollahra

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