

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**THE W.R. BURGE COLLECTION SHOWCASES VIBRANT ERA  
OF 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AUSTRALIAN PAINTING & SCULPTURE**

**Auction in Sydney at Christie's on Monday 6 March at 6.30pm**

**Sydney, Australia** – Christie's released the catalogue for **The W.R. Burge Collection of Australian & International Pictures and Sculpture** today, Tuesday 7 February. The 193 lot sale is estimated to be worth between \$2 million and \$4 million and is attracting keen interest from private collectors and museums alike, who always relish in the opportunity to buy such rare and important art.

Christie's Chairman and Managing Director, **Roger Mellroy**, when announcing the sale, said "*William (Bill) Burge, a youthful lawyer in Sydney, became infatuated with the emerging art of his era and began a collection which grew into a unique time capsule of a vibrant era in Australian art. Christie's is honoured to have been given the opportunity to disperse a collection which is a tribute to both the quality of Bill's 'eye' and the finest artists of the time.*"

The W. R. Burge Collection began with the purchase of a **John Olsen** painting which proved to be the catalyst to a new and enduring aspect of Burge's life. He became fascinated by the abstraction and colour he observed in the burgeoning Sydney art scene of the 1970s. Soon he was engrossed every Saturday in the world of galleries, the endless study of art and long discussions with and about artists. Many artists like **Robert Klippel** and **Rosemary Madigan** not only benefitted from Burge's patronage but became steadfast friends. Virtually all the key artists of the era are represented in the collection.

Sculpture is particularly prominent, with works regularly acquired to enhance the 1968 Centennial Park home, designed by Austrian architect Nicholas Munster which he shared with his wife Ann. This sale features the largest collection of Klippel sculptures to come onto the market, including *Opus 361 (Eighteen Miniature Constructions)* which was lent to the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the Robert Klippel Retrospective in 2002.

Burge's artistic passion also made him aware of trends overseas and the sale includes an important oil painting by Italian Modernist **Lucio Fontana** as well as works by **Joan Miro**, **Phillip Martin** and **John Hoyland**.

Since 1999, the year of Bill Burge's death at 63, his family have maintained the extensive collection, which is now being dispersed as a consequence of Ann's decision to move to an apartment.

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Highlights of the 193 lots include:

<b>Lucio Fontana</b> (Italian, 1899-1968)	<i>Concetto Spaziale</i> (1961)	Estimate \$300,000-400,000
<b>Robert Klippel</b> (1920-2000)	<i>Opus 361 [Eighteen Miniature Constructions]</i> (1979)	Estimate \$250,000-350,000
<b>Robert Klippel</b> (1920-2000)	<i>Opus 300</i> (1972-74)	Estimate \$70,000-90,000
<b>Ralph Balson</b> (1890-1964)	<i>Constructive Painting</i> (1941)	Estimate \$60,000-80,000
<b>John Olsen</b> (Born 1928)	<i>The Kettle Boils</i> (1968)	Estimate \$60,000-80,000
<b>Ian Fairweather</b> (1891-1974)	<i>The Dance</i> (circa 1957)	Estimate \$50,000-80,000
<b>Arthur Boyd</b> (1920-1999)	<i>Kafka's Metamorphosis</i> (circa 1948)	Estimate \$30,000-50,000

The W. R. Burge Collection will be on view in Sydney at **Christie's**, 287 New South Head Road, Edgecliff from Friday 3 March to Sunday 5 March from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm daily, prior to the auction on Monday 6 March at 6.30pm.

Catalogues are available now from Christie's offices.

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*Images available on request  
Visit Christie's website at  
[www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*