

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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**CHRISTIE'S REPATRIATE EARLY JOHN PERCEVAL
PAINTINGS FROM EUROPE FOR MELBOURNE AUCTION**

John Peter Russell's 'Portofino' – For Sale for the First Time Ever

Christie's Director and Head of Australian & International Paintings, Jon Dwyer says the company's April 19 auction catalogue showcases significant works by leading modern Australian painters. One of the highlights being, John Perceval's 'Nativity I' painted in 1947. The auction is further enhanced by Brett Whiteley's iconic landscape 'The Meeting Place' (1981), a number of important works by the foremost contemporary artists in Australia and the inclusion of a major work by impressionist John Peter Russell never previously offered for sale, consigned by the artist's great grandson.

"A hallmark of this sale is the number of works Christie's have been able to secure for sale from international collectors of Australian art. We have consignments from clients in Europe, Asia and the United States. In most cases they are paintings which have seldom been available to the market, in some instances it is the first time they have been offered at auction. An undoubted highlight is 'Nativity I' which Perceval painted in 1947 but retained personally until 1986, when it was acquired by the current vendor. Other internationally consigned works are by Ray Croke, Hans Heysen, Tim Maguire, Sidney Nolan, Charles Condor, George Peacock, John Glover, Sali Herman and Arthur Boyd. The inclusion of John Peter Russell's 'Portofino' is simply a remarkable once-in-several-lifetimes opportunity to purchase a rare and important painting." said Jon Dwyer.

Sale highlights include:

Lot 52 Brett Whiteley 'The Meeting Place' (1981) *estimate \$600,000-800,000*

Lot 35 John Perceval 'Nativity I' (1947) *estimate \$250,000 - \$350,000*

Lot 49 John Perceval 'The Butcher's Shop' (1948) *estimate \$180,000 - \$250,000*

Lot 68 John Peter Russell 'Portofino' *estimate \$180,000 - \$250,000*

Lot 105 Rupert Bunny 'A Cosy Evening (A Quiet Evening II)' (c. 1908) *estimate \$180,000-250,000*

Lot 42 John Glover 'Hayfield near Primrose Hill' (1817) *estimate \$120,000-180,000*

Lot 16 Tim Maguire 'Untitled' (1994) *estimate \$100,000-150,000*

Lot 34 Norman Lindsay 'Figure Group' *estimate \$80,000-100,000*

**AUSTRALIAN, INTERNATIONAL & CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS
AUCTION in MELBOURNE**

TUESDAY 19 APRIL (commencing at 6.30pm)

WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL (commencing at 3.00pm)

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ON VIEW

Sydney (selected highlights) at Christie's, 287 New South Head Road, Edgecliff from Friday 8 until Sunday 10 April.

Melbourne at Christie's, 1 Darling Street, South Yarra from Friday 15 until Monday 18 April.

All viewings are from 11.00am to 5.00pm daily.

Catalogues are available now at Christie's offices.

*Visit our Website on
www.christies.com
Images available on request*