

## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **'TRUTH' REVEALED IN DALLAS, TEXAS, USA!**

**Christie's Repatriate Rare Mackennal Bronze Sculpture for Auction in Australia**

**Melbourne, Australia,**  
**6.00pm Tuesday 10 December 2002**

**Melbourne, Australia** – A rare 19<sup>th</sup> century work by renowned Australian sculptor Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal KCVO RA (1863-1931) is one of the highlights of Christie's auction on 10 December.

The sculpture, **'Truth'**, carries a pre-sale estimate of \$40,000-60,000. The bronze was discovered in Dallas, Texas where it had been purported that it could possibly be an Australian sculpture, but little other detail had been known about the piece. When contacted by the collector Christie's Australia were able to confirm the significance of the work to the owner. Rather than consign it to New York, where it had been highly sought after once the truth of its identity had been revealed, the owners decided to return it to Australia for auction.

Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal was born on 12 June 1893 at Fitzroy, Melbourne.

Acknowledged as Australia's premier sculptor of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Mackennal's early work in the Symbolist manner was greatly influenced by Auguste Rodin.

This allegorical, figure of 'Truth', standing naked holding the sun in the form of a radiant disc in her hands, as its light reveals the truth, follows the success of 'Circe' which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1894. 'Truth' is signed, dated and inscribed "MACKENNAL, JUNE 12 1894, LONDON" and is a significant example of work from the period when Mackennal was very fashionable, thought to be extremely French and very advanced in style and technique.

The auction will also disperse a diverse range of furniture, art, silver, jewellery and collectables. Notable items include:

**A William IV Mahogany Library Drum Table** (*estimate \$50,000-60,000*)

**A Single Stone Diamond Ring. 16.69 carat diamond mounted in 18 carat gold** (*estimate \$150,000-200,000*)

**A Commonwealth Sterling Silver Two Handled Porriger, Cover and Stand** (*estimate \$60,000-80,000*)

**A pair of George IV Sterling Silver Soup Tureens & Covers, and a matching Sauce Tureen & Cover** (*estimate \$80,000-120,000*)

**A set of Twelve George II Sterling Silver Dinner Plates** (*estimate \$20,000-24,000*)

**A White Marble and Gilt Bronze Statue of a Veiled Woman** (*estimate \$20,000-30,000*)

**A selection of European bronze and cast Erotic Sculptures, Ivories , Paintings and Miniatures** (*estimates vary upward from under \$1,000 to over \$10,000*)

The entire sale will be on view in Melbourne from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. The auction will be at 6.00pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2002. Catalogues are now available from Christie's offices.

More information about Christie's sale of Decorative Arts on 10 December can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.