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AUSTRALIAN

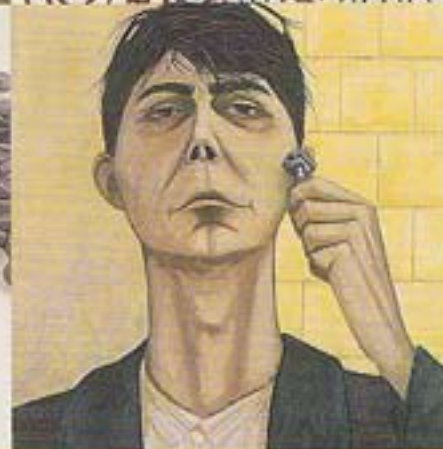
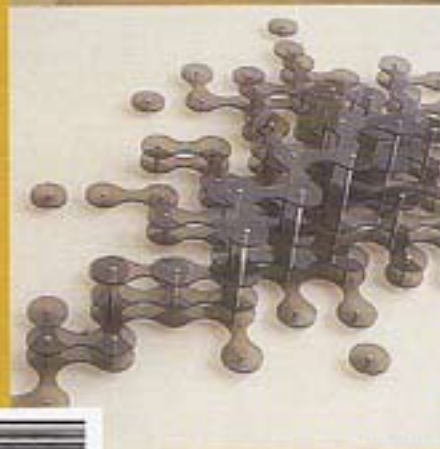
ART

collector

50

AUSTRALIA'S
Most Collectable
ARTISTS

ISSUE 15 • JANUARY - MARCH 2001



PLUS • Terry Ingram on the Schaeffer Collection • Bruce James on Rhonda Goodall • Yupinya Nampitjin
• Geoff Maslen reviews the year in auctions • Jan Minchin and Tolamo Galleries • John Perceval Obituary
• 2001 Samstag Winners • The Turner Prize • and much more...

Paddy Bedford (Nyunkuny)

Born on Bedford Downs Station in the East Kimberley, **Paddy Bedford**'s early life was spent working as a stockman for tea, flour and tobacco rations on the old Greenvale and Bow River Stations. He later returned to work at Bedford Downs and eventually settled with his family at Turkey Creek. From the language group Kija (or Gija), Bedford has the skin name Jawalyi and has painted ceremonially all his life. He only began painting on canvas in 1997 after the Jirrawun art cooperative was formed, but his technical skill and conceptual sophistication were immediately apparent. His work continues to attract the attention of both critics and collectors.

"...exhibits an authority and confidence not seen since Rover Thomas."

"While relatively new to the art market, Bedford exhibits an authority and confidence not seen since **Rover Thomas**," says Aboriginal art specialist at Phillips Auctioneers, **Jane Raffan**. With his dealer shows selling out, not a lot of material is coming onto the market but works are starting to appear at auction. Phillips offered four works at their June 2000 sale including the artist's current saleroom benchmark, *Twenty Mile*, which sold for \$11,500. Raffan says Bedford's price range of \$7,000-\$10,000 for a typical work is "a very strong showing for an entry level artist."

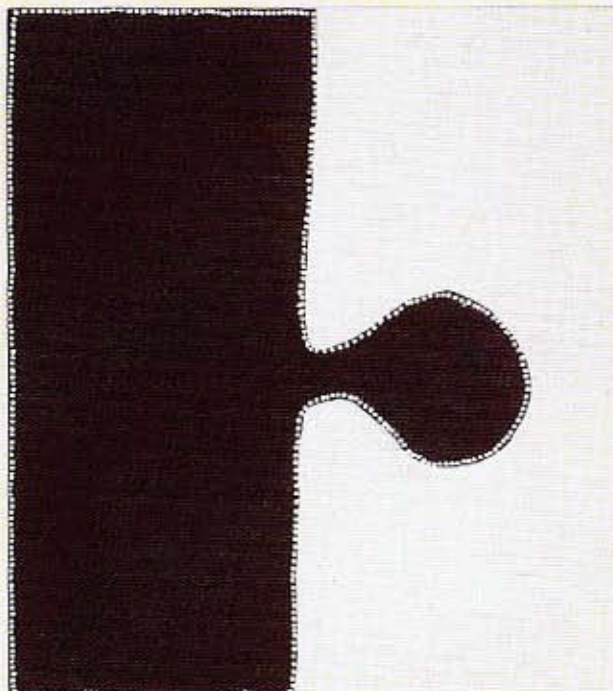
collections AGNSW; Macquarie Bank, Sydney; several private and corporate collections

born c.1922

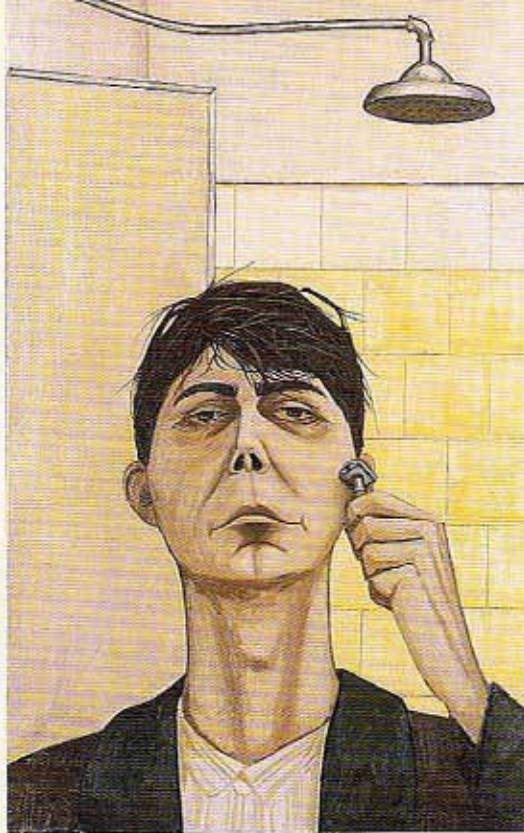
price range paintings \$7,000-10,000

dealers Jirrawun Aboriginal Art Corporation; Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney; William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

secondary market Chapman Gallery, Framed - The Darwin Gallery



Paddy Bedford, *Untitled*, 2000. Ochres on canvas, 136x122 cm. COURTESY: WILLIAM MORA GALLERIES



John Brack, *Self Portrait*, 1955. Oil on canvas, 80x47 cm... sold at Christie's Mertz sale for \$442,500. COURTESY: CHRISTIE'S

John Brack

Since his death in 1999 **John Brack**'s stature as one of this country's most important exponents of postwar figurative modernism has only grown. Following service in World War II, Brack returned to full-time study at the National Gallery of Victoria School, where he would eventually head the painting department from 1962 until 1968. The influence on his students – the caustic humour, the mastery of line and composition, and the bravura use of colour – is manifest. Brack's meticulous technique realised a select, if meagre, output – estimated at only 350 paintings and a similar number of prints and drawings. From that output can be culled a select group of images which have entered the national psyche including his most famous work, *Collins Street at 5pm* (1956). Auctioneer **Chris Deutscher** believes Brack is "one of the few Australian artists who is clearly of international standard".

"under-appreciated in the market place until very late in his life."

The subject of no less than five major retrospectives – the last opening at the NGA just after his death – Brack enjoyed a significant academic and critical following throughout his career. However he remained in the popular shadow of his modernist contemporaries and under-appreciated in the market place until very late in his life. Christie's sale of *The Bathroom* in 1997 for \$497,000, (still his saleroom record) marks the moment of his rejuvenation. Christie's landmark Mertz sale in June 2000, where his *Self Portrait* (1955) brought \$442,500 including buyer's premium, confirmed that Brack's works are now in greater demand than ever – and, due to his small output, are just as hard to come by. A major travelling exhibition concluding at the Queensland Art Gallery in May has only broadened Brack's appeal. **collections** AGNSW, AGSA, AGWA, MAGNT, NGA, NGV, QAG, TMAG, and numerous regional, tertiary, corporate and private collections

1920-1999

price range paintings up to \$500,000; drawings \$20,000-\$60,000; prints \$1,000-\$6,000

secondary market Australian Galleries, Chapman Gallery, Christopher Day Gallery, Eva Breuer Art Dealer, Gould Galleries, Lauraine Diggins Fine Art, Lister Calder Gallery, Niagara Galleries, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Savill Galleries