

# Lindsay oil in \$3m auction

By STUART HONEYSETT

"WE'VE got a great Norman Lindsay oil comprising just a hell of a lot of naked women, men cavorting around and all that sort of business," says Paul Dwyer excitedly.

Mr Dwyer, the assistant art director at Leonard Joel, has good reason to be excited.

The Lindsay painting is expected to fetch between \$75,000 and \$85,000 when it is offered for sale at an auction of Australian and European Traditional and Modern Oil Paintings, Watercolours, Works on Paper and Graphics tonight.

The collection consists of over 850 lots and is valued at \$3 million. It includes works from artists such as Sidney Nolan, Sir Arthur Streeton, William Dobell, Brett Whiteley, Lloyd Rees, Frederick McCubbin, James Gleeson, Donald Friend and John Olsen.

Mr Dwyer said the exhibition would also include works from well-known Australian female artists including Margaret Preston and Ida Rentoul Outhwaite.

Mr Dwyer said another piece that would attract a great deal of attention was a Norman Lindsay papier mache and plaster sculpture called *The Satyr*. Standing only 15cm high, the sculpture is one of only three or four such pieces Lindsay attempted and is believed to be modelled on Pru, the Lindsay model who was portrayed in the film *Sirens* by Sydney actor and model Kate Fischer.

"He would have done that in about the 20s to do other paintings off her," Mr Dwyer said.

"Kate Fischer just happened to portray that lady that we assumed this satyr was modelled after."

Joels expects the piece to sell for between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

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The Pirates Return ... 'just a hell of a lot of naked women, men cavorting around and all that sort of business' — Picture: GRAHAM CROUCH