

Maker's Mark

THE first major cab off the art auction rank for 1998 is the sale by Leonard Joel in Melbourne of the Rogowski collection, from February 23 to 26.

This extraordinary collection is made up of more than 1000 lots of Australian and European paintings, English and European silver, jewellery, porcelain, furniture, clocks and bronzes. It is an Aladdin's cave.

Danuta ("Darling, I brought culture to Moorabbin") and Ted Rogowski were fixtures for more than 30 years in Melbourne sale rooms.

The auction will be the culmination of a long-term friendship between the Rogowskis and Graham Joel.

Entrusted to Joel via the Rogowskis' will, the entire proceeds of the sale will be donated to charity.

From the 1960s to the '80s the premises of Moorabbin Antiques, the Rogowskis' base, was the epitome of the Melbourne salon-style dealer.

The late February viewing of the collection will give collectors a wonderful opportunity to view a taste time capsule.

Bold, decorative and big, the Rogowskis' taste was unleashed in the days before the world went minimalist.

Their taste in paintings was traditional and pastoral. Works by Penleigh Boyd, Ernest Buckmaster and Rubery Bennett sit cheek by jowl in the catalogue.

Such a big volume of traditional Australian works will be a test for the local market, whose response to the Asian crisis is not yet clear.

The standout work in the sale may prove to be Sydney Long's *Fawn and Nymph*, estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000. It should sell for well above its estimate.

— MICHAEL REID

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Pastoral price This Sydney Long painting in the Rogowski collection is expected to exceed its estimate at auction

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