

# TNT

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### Native art fetches a record

A RECORD \$50,600 was paid for an Aboriginal artwork at an auction in Melbourne last night.

Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri's 1972 painting *Love Story* had been expected to sell for up to \$25,000 but 600 people, including seven international phone-bidders, pushed the painting's price twice as high.

The previous highest price for contemporary Aboriginal art was \$22,000 in April 1989, while some of Albert Namatjira's older works have fetched about \$30,000.

By EMMA MILLER

Mick Namari Tjapaltjarri's 1972 *Bush Tucker Story* also broke the earlier record, selling for \$34,500.

The paintings were among a collection of 500 works in Sotheby's Contemporary Art Auction, including one of Andy Warhol's cartoon-like Mao screen-prints, which sold for \$6900.

More than 20 rare Aboriginal paintings, a large painted bark

shelter, hollow log coffins and didgeridoos were also auctioned.

Sotheby's specialist in charge of contemporary and Aboriginal art, Tim Klingender, said it was the first time a collection of such high quality Aboriginal art had been on the market.

"They are very unique, very scarce and very beautiful images," he said.

"Works from 1971 to 1973 have been steadily rising in price over the past six years and there is a lot of interest from America and Europe."



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