



Cover:

Wetlands (detail) 2000
limited edition fine art
reproduction

75.4 x 94 cm

\$3,200 (framed)

Selected works by

JOHN OLSEN

At Bank of America Merrill Lynch

March – June 2019

viewing by appointment only

My earliest memories are of John Olsen's studio in Watsons Bay. It was there that I was dwarfed by canvases which loomed like vast apostles, and I can still smell the gum turpentine, feel the spent tubes beneath my bare feet, see the scraped palettes, the oil stained rags, the uncorked bottle, a smock hanging in the corner and the unfinished glass of red above the fireplace – a salute to the night before.

John Olsen, always a wonderful father, not always an easy one, but a constant teacher. For him the line between art and life was rarely broken. We were down at the pub before it opened, lining up to meet the fisherman bringing in the last catch of the day. Tucking a gleaming bream wrapped in newspaper under one arm, John would declare, 'that's dinner, back to the studio in the meantime' and the moment was replete. It was a childhood that mixed earthy pleasures with worldly company, as it seemed that everyone who came to our kitchen table – Russell Drysdale, Donald Friend, Barry Humphries, Sidney Nolan – made my sister and I unknowing witnesses to a dynamic culture unfolding. The value of painting was a crucible undisputed in our house, making my childhood rich in two assets: art and memory.

John Olsen is not an abstract artist; he is one of the great evocative painters. His link to poetry is his other great strength. I feel he has been gifted in his ability to understand beauty and still praise the ugly, the uneven, the difficult. His work also spans and masters many disciplines. A passionate collector once hailed him 'the Picasso of Australia', a patently throw-away remark, and yet effectively like Picasso, he has mastered and never faltered in any of his chosen mediums. Even ceramics. The idiosyncrasy of his mark is inherent everywhere.

People see pain as profound and pleasure as mildly suspicious, yet both are present in equal measure in the work of John Olsen, you just need to excavate a bit deeper. Once, out in the landscape, my father pointed to a bird dissolving into the horizon; 'That,' he said simply, 'is me'. And then he laughed, 'I am trying to put the landscape into the palm of my hand. Who do I think I am?'

But the fact is creation can fit into our palm, our small, narrow field of vision – in the right hands. My father's achievement dwells in the implosion and explosion of scale. His subtle ability to wed the minute to the vast: the spaces of lakes like monoliths balanced by the intricate dance of a water beetle or that distant crane traversing the sky. Everything my father touches is full of passion, intensity, truth and curiosity. The child is always alive. All my life he's been watching, absorbing and doing much more than just taking notes. So often he has been known by his motto, 'I am in the landscape and the landscape is in me'. That line, over time, became indivisible with his artistic identity and in the process he changed the face of how we see this terrain. He changed the very essence of what modern landscape painting is by shrinking the sky, turning his back on conventional geometry, speaking his own language and always returning to the egg-yolk magnetic energy of the sun.

Tim Olsen

Olsen Gallery, 2019



John Olsen appears courtesy of OLSEN Gallery, Sydney

Available works by Project Artists are subject to change including prices and availability



King Leopold Ranges 1999
mixed media on paper
55 x 75 cm
\$48,000



Wattle Pond, Bathurst 1977-78
oil on canvas
128 x 136 cm
\$300,000



*Flooded River Passing the
Simpson Desert 2007*

oil on linen

122 x 152 cm

\$220,000



Chicken and Prune Casserole

2014

mixed media on paper

74 x 79 cm

\$65,000



Untitled 2014
mixed media on paper
80 x 79 cm
\$65,000



By the River
John Currin 2016

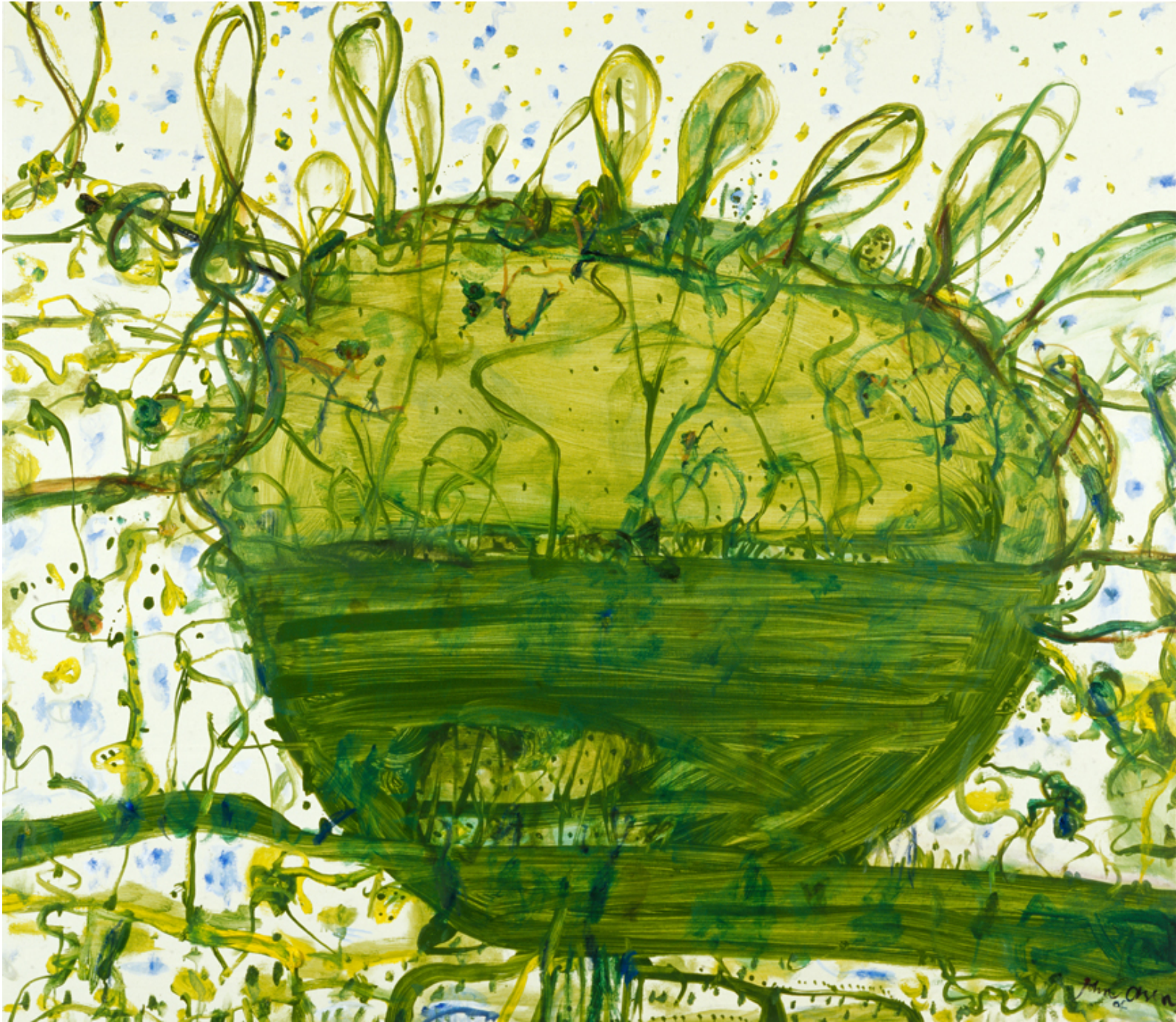
By The River 2016
mixed media on paper
80 x 89 cm
\$65,000



The Rookery 1989
mixed media on paper
195 x 145 cm
\$120,000



Cormorant and Jacanas 2008
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
74 x 98 cm
\$2,850



Lily Pond 2004, 2010
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
80.6 x 93 cm
\$3,300



*Broken Egg and Summer
Landscape* 2015
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
87.3 x 101 cm
\$3,000



Sturt Peas, Pilbara 2018
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
70 x 77 cm
\$3,200



Night Train and Owls 2018

Limited edition fine art
reproduction

63 x 65 cm

\$3,200



Lake Eyre – The Desert Sea III
2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
94 x 71 cm
\$4,300



Lake Eyre 1975 2014
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
87.5 x 81.6 cm
\$3,200



Low Tide 2018
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
75 x 80 cm
\$3,200



Squid with its own ink 2014
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
51.5 x 57 cm
\$2,200



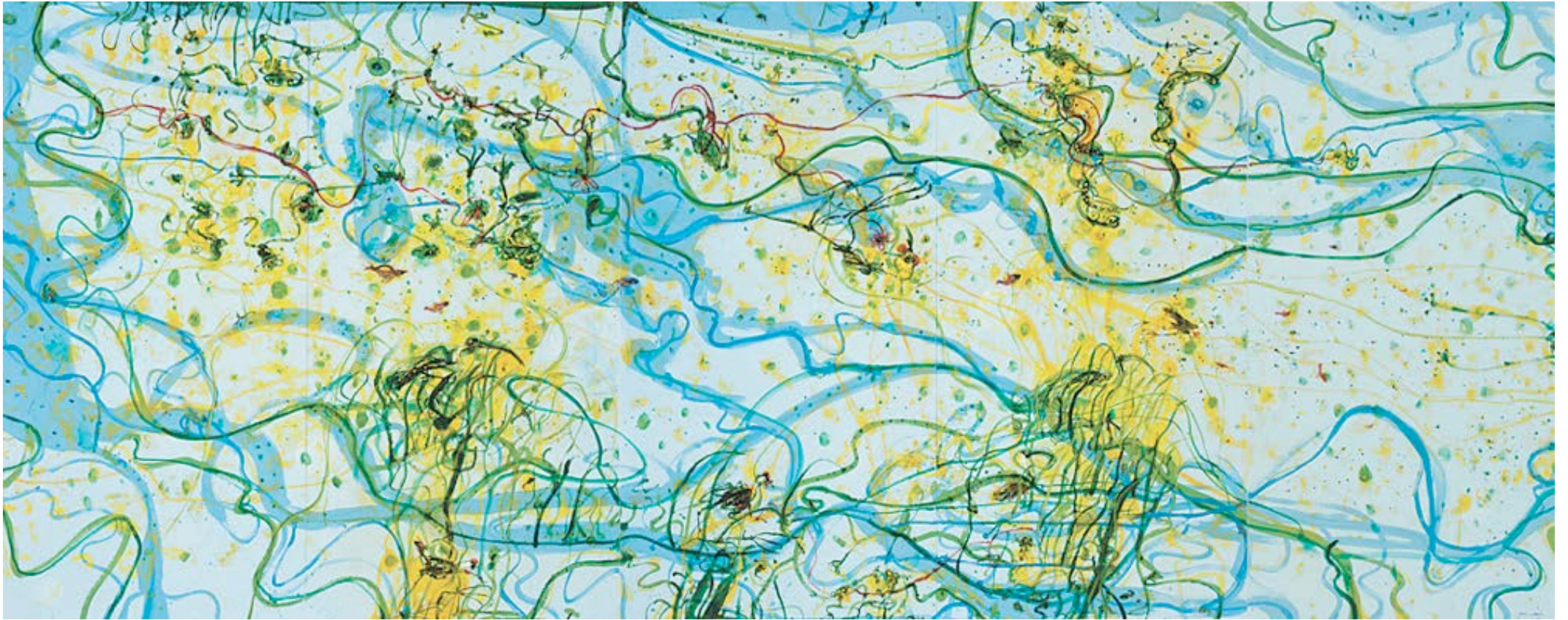
The Bouillabaisse 2014
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
52 x 57 cm
\$2,200



Poet's Garden 2008
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
75.6 x 100 cm
\$3,050



Frog & Fly 2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
74 x 52 cm
\$2,800



Tropical Lilypond 2006

Limited edition fine art
reproduction

53 x 132 cm

\$2,850



Spring Tide – Sydney Harbour
2013
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
51 x 102 cm
\$2,600



Mt Kenya 2009
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
65 x 48 cm
\$3,000



Paella Marinara 2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
75 x 82 cm
\$3,350



*The People Who Live on
Victoria Street 2018*
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
54.5 x 82 cm
\$3,150



The French Bath 2018
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
54.5 x 51 cm
\$2,500



Lake Eyre – The Desert Sea IX
2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
94 x 71 cm
\$4,300



Lake Eyre – The Desert Sea II
2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
94 x 71 cm
\$4,300



*Harbour Pool (Blue Swimmer
Crab)* 2018
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
71 x 135 cm
\$4.000



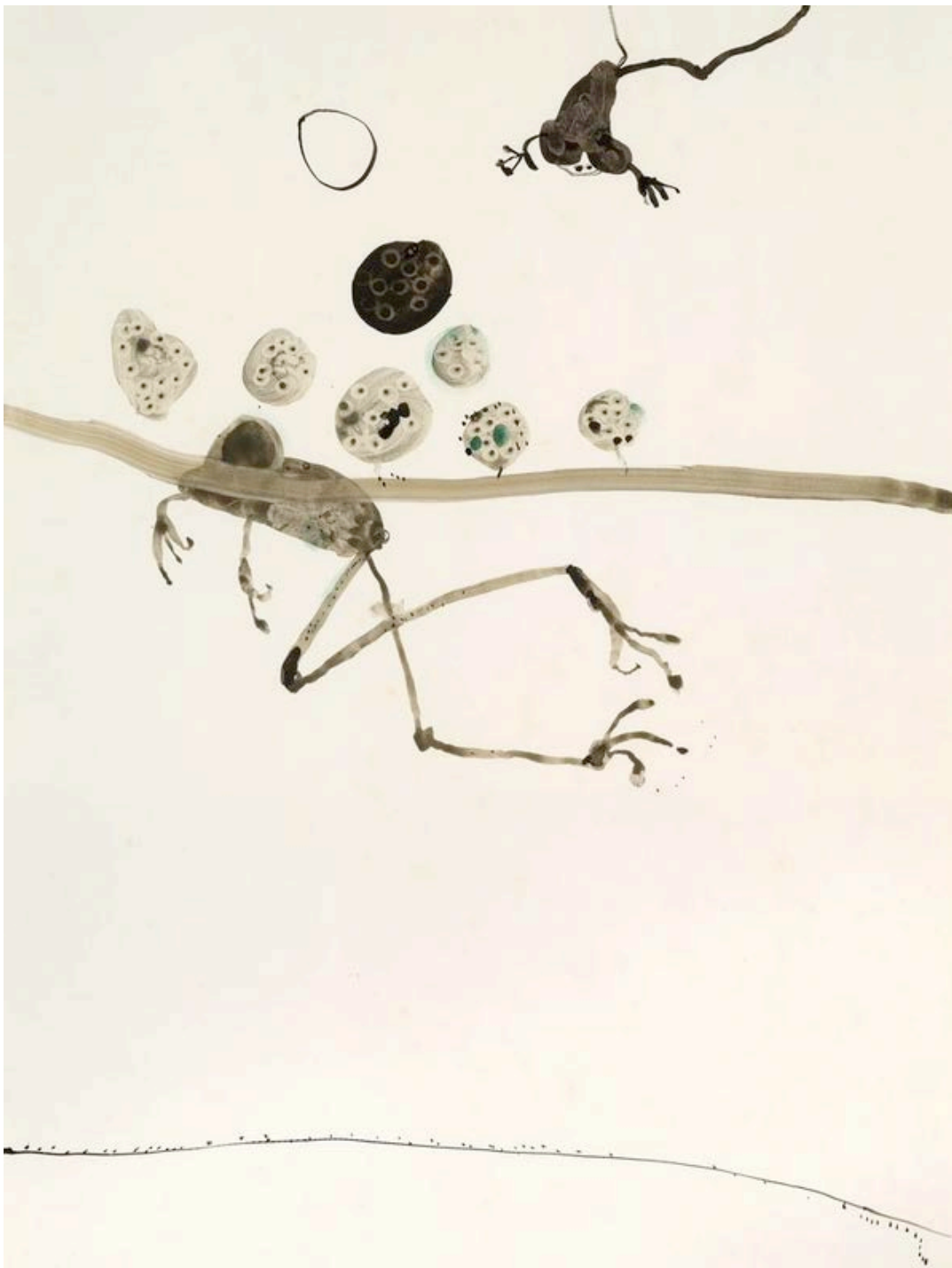
Frog Dance (Lakefield Sunset)

2017

Limited edition fine art
reproduction

85 x 81 cm

\$4,000



Frog Swimming 2018
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
71 x 50.5 cm
\$3,300



Hanging Tree Frog 2017
Limited edition fine art
reproduction
63 x 55 cm
\$3,000

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