

**Works on Paper**  
**Weekly Times Column**  
**By Warren Joel**

As the name implies, works on paper are limited edition prints, etchings and lithographs by artists. These have become highly collectable over the years and in some instances a print by some artist will bring more than the original watercolour.

If you are an interested art collector this is a great place to start. The entry level for many of these works can be under \$1,000 but you still end up with a work recognised as being by an important artist. The top end of the Australian market would include artists like Brett Whiteley, Norman Lindsay and more recently, Ethel Spowers. Each of these artists' works on paper, when first printed, were a few hundred dollars and now can bring in excess of \$50,000. Not a bad investment for a piece of paper!

The common feature of all these works on paper is that they are always limited edition. This is quite different to the mass production decorative print that only has a decorative value. So what to look for will be an original signature, normally outside the printed image, and an old fashioned fraction. The fraction, eg 10/50, will mean that you are looking at the tenth image in a total of 50 produced. A limited edition, in respect to works on paper, would be less than 200.

As with any collectable, and one as fragile as paper, you need to be aware of the condition of the image. Bright sunshine, mould or mildew on the paper, or silverfish and moths could reduce the value to a fraction of its current value.

*Next week: Toys.*

**Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.**

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to [valuations@byjoel.com.au](mailto:valuations@byjoel.com.au) I will access the item and respond.

**Warren Joel**

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

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