

The painting purchase was partly brokered by Max Hutchinson, who was reported to have received a \$US100,000 commission.

#### **PRESS COVERAGE:**

- *Canberra's longrunning serial: Blue Poles: Episode 1* (**Australian Financial Review**, Sept 26th 1973).
- *We Buy \$1.3m painting* (**Melbourne Herald**, Sept 22nd, 1973) Allan McCulloch: 'It makes Australia a sitting duck for future international art market bids... The painting could be the F1-11 of Australian art. The price is much too high for a man who never attained the status of a master.'
- *We Buy \$1.3m US Painting* (**Adelaide News**, Sept 22nd 1973). The painting had been initially purchased in 1953 for \$4000 (\$US6000) & repurchased by collector & textiles merchant, Ben Heller in 1956, the year of the painter's death for \$21,400 (\$US32000).
- *Ours for \$2million: Pollock picture fetches record* (**Sunday Telegraph**, Sept 23rd, 1973);
- *\$2m – For This!* (with black & white photograph of detail) **Sunday Mail** [Adelaide] Sept 23rd, 1973;
- Terry Hayes: *Aust Pays \$1.3m For Art* (**Sydney Sun-Herald**, Sept 23rd, 1973);
- *Art World Divided on \$1.3m Buy* (**Melbourne Age**, Sept 24th, 1973): Sir William Dargie: the gallery could have a Rembrandt for the price. Andrew Sibley: money would be better spent on Australian contemporary work.
- Terry Ingram: *The Mystery of Blue Poles: Open Govt's secret art policy* (**Australian Financial Review**, Sept 24th 1973);
- "Outrageous" art purchase - Senator (**Hobart Mercury**, Sept 25th, 1973)
- 'Blue Poles' – strong views: 'A masterpiece ... it just stinks.' (**SMH**, Sept 25th, 1973)
- Editorial: *Art for the Nation* (**Canberra Times**, Sept 25th 1973 - criticism of cost);
- Terry Ingram: *Is Jackson worth \$2m?* (**Canberra News**, 25 Sept 1973);
- *\$1.3m art purchase my decision: PM* (**Age**, 26th Sept 1973);
- Michelle Grattan: *Blue Poles makes public see red* (**Age**, 27th Sept 1973)
- Donald Brook: *Pollocks, plums and princes: Recreating a slop pop high renaissance* (**Nation Review**, 18th Oct 1973) "To declare my own stand I should say that I consider American abstract expressionism a grossly overrated phenomenon, but one that has assumed undeniable importance because of its role in Americal postwar cultural chauvinism and subsequent imperialism. The history of western art since world war two would be incomprehensible without it and we would do well to have one or two good examples around."
- *Art Buy Sensation: Barefoot drunks painted our \$1m masterpiece* (Sydney **Daily Mirror**, Oct 23rd, 1973);
- *Sculptor admits hand in \$1.3m painting* (**Sydney Morning Herald**, 24th Oct 1973);
- *Oh! What a shocking blue!* (**Daily Telegraph**, Sydney 24th Oct 1973)
- *\$1.3m art trampled out after booze-up* (**Age** 24th Oct 1973);
- *Is \$1.3mil. buy an art hoax?* (**Courier Mail**, 24th Sept 1973)
- *Expert Defends 'Blue Poles': Jackson Pollock work 'authentic'* (**Australian**, 25th Oct, 1973); 'Australian art expert Mr Robert Hughes said yesterday that the authenticity of 'Blue Poles' the painting bought recently by the Australian National Gallery for \$1.3million was not in doubt."

- *They'll flock to see 'blue Poles' - PM (Age, 9th Nov 1973);*
- *'Poles' buy shows 'fair go' attitude (Canberra News, Nov 20th, 1973);*
- *\$1.3m problem - how to get 'Poles' here (Canberra News, 28th Feb 1974);*
- *Heavy police guard for 'Blue Poles' (Sydney Morning Herald, 4th April 1974);*
- *Poles overpriced eight times: Dargie (Melbourne Herald 15th June 1974);*
- See also Ian Burn: *'Buying Cultural Dependency: A Note on the Crazy Thinking behind Several Australian Collections (The Fox, No 1, New York, 1975 p141-4)*