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Max Dupain photographs sell for more than \$1 million at auction

June 19, 2016 - 9:06PM 15 reading now Read later Ashleigh Tullis and Georgina Mitchell

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Max Dupain's 'Sunbaker', taken at Culburra Beach on the NSW south coast in 1937.

Rare photographic works on sale for the first time

A collection of images by legendary photographer Max Dupain have sold for more than \$1 million at auction, setting an Australian record.

The batch of almost 500 photographs, sold on Sunday, included a signed print of Dupain's iconic image *Sunbaker*, and other memorable pictures including *Bondi*.

Sunbaker, taken at Culburra Beach on the NSW south coast in 1937, has been lauded as a "national image".

A 50cm by 56.5cm print of the photograph, signed and dated by Dupain in 1937 and almost the same size as a print bought by the National Gallery of Australia in 1976, fetched \$85,000 at the auction in Woollahra on Sunday.

Similar prints of *Sunbaker* had previously sold for \$30,000.

The print of *Bondi* sold for \$25,000, pushing past the previous record of \$19,000 for another print of the photograph.

Anna Hombsch, deputy director of Australian and international art at auction house Mossgreen, said the auction was "hugely successful".

The photographs were mostly bought by private dealers and collectors, with some buying multiple photos from the 497 on offer.

"There has been broad interest in the collection," Ms Hombsch said.

"The popularity of this auction shows Max Dupain was a loved and respected Australian photographer."

By 4.30pm the auction had generated more than \$1 million.

"That is a record for any photographic auction by one artist in Australia," Ms Hombsch said.

Dupain's son Rex Dupain, who is also a photographer, said he was selling his extensive collection because many of them had been in storage for eight years and they deserved to be seen.

"They should be out there in institutions and on people's walls," Dupain said.

"That's how I see it. They are very desirable images but not only that, they are a part of Australia's history.

"How long do you want a virtuoso to sing in the cupboard?"



'Bondi', this print from Monash Gallery of Art, fetched \$25,000. Photo: Max Dupain



Rex Dupain, who is also a photographer, sold 497 of his father's prints. Photo: Peter Braig



Max Dupain poses with one of his cameras in 1979. Photo: Col Townsend

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