



**March 08**

***Three signed and framed Wolfgang Sievers photographs will go under the hammer***

*The Bid 4 Freedom Art Auction* offers an exclusive opportunity to purchase historically significant examples of one of Australia's most esteemed photographers, Wolfgang Sievers. Internationally recognized as one of the 20th century's leading creative photographers, Wolfgang Sievers' beautifully controlled lighting, particularly of architectural and industrial subjects, has earned his masterpieces a respected place in both private and public collections throughout the world.

Three signed and framed Sievers photos will go under the hammer at the ***Bid 4 Freedom Art Auction*** on Sunday 27 April. *Ropemaking, Miller's Rope, 1962*, Gelatin Silver, B&W, 49 x 39 cm. was Sievers most favourite taken at the Miller rope factory in Brunswick. This he felt reflected the dignity of man as a worker. The two others include the *Hamersley ranges in the Pilbara, near Wittenoom, 1975* Colour, 40 x 49cm and *Capitol Theatre, 1973* Colour, 50 x 57cm.

Sievers died on in 2007, aged 93, a month short of his 94th birthday. He was born in Berlin on September 18, 1913, with enough Jewish ancestry to make him an undesirable after the Nazis seized power in Germany. In 1938, sensing the evil that was to come, Sievers, showing characteristic audacity, escaped his native Germany, eventually emigrating to Australia.

His refugee past made him an unrelenting advocate and fighter for human rights, and caused him to abhor the treatment of asylum seekers at the hands of the Howard Government.

Sievers never became a household name, and yet his images are immediately familiar — dramatic, epic photographs that documented Australian industry and architecture from the late 1930s on. His most recognisable work is *Gears for Mining Industry*, taken in 1967, at the former Vickers Ruwolt factory in Burnley. The National Library of Australia has an archive of more than 5000 of Sievers' negatives and transparencies.

These photographs to be auctioned were donated in his last extraordinary gesture before he died.

"He had everything sorted out and he was ready to die," said Julian Burnside QC. "He was very happy to know that his photographs were out there actively achieving the goals that he had practised all of his life."

An irreverent raconteur, Sievers had a wicked sense of humor, an implacable sense of justice and an enduring love of his medium. He kept a darkroom in his studio attic at his home in Sandringham, where he worked from 1976.

"First and foremost he was a remarkable photographer; the quality of his photographs is astounding," Mr Burnside said. "But on a personal level, he was a man who was utterly dedicated to the idea of the decent treatment of other human beings."

The Exhibition, free to the public, opens on Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup>: weekdays 10.00-5.00; weekends and public holidays 1.00-5.00.

Julian Burnside will launch the Exhibition at an invitation-only Preview on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Auction will be on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

To view the art works check the Web-page: [www.bid4freedom.org](http://www.bid4freedom.org)

**For more information contact Mary-Lou Howie on 0401 811 893**

***BID FOR FREEDOM***  
**ART EXHIBITION AND AUCTION**  
**Preview exhibition 16 – 27 April 08**  
**Auction 27 April**  
**The Glen Eira City Council Gallery**  
Cnr Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, Vic. 3162  
**Melways Ref: 68 A2**