

RALPH HOTERE*Black Painting XIIB from Malady*

Acrylic on canvas 178 x 91.5

Signed, inscribed & dated 1970

\$80,000 - 120,000

Provenance:

Purchased directly from the

Collection of Fletcher Challenge Ltd by

the current owner, 1995

A single word from Bill Manhire's *Malady* poem has been repeated by Hotere across the surface of *Black Painting XIIB*. Appearing as a chant-like reverberation, it rises and falls in arched form, representing one of the three incantations which formed Manhire's original poem: *malady, melody and my lady*. Having been uplifted by Hotere in this way from the written work of his friend and collaborator, the painted word tacitly recalls its two homonyms.

Black Painting XIIB is partly about the sonority of language, exploring the possibility of both adding and stripping away meaning through repetition. It is also a painting which demands consideration of universal love and truth, *my lady*, sickness and decay, *malady*. The *Malady* series is certainly one of Hotere's most formally compelling. This painting is a fine example of the artist's ability to articulate concerns of sublime expressionism through his unique philosophy of colour and personal / political referentiality.

