

AUTUMN/WINTER SALES ROUND UP II

What to click on

In New York

The New York design catalogues are out and they are dressed to impress. Quintessential collections built for decades by erudite eyes are coming at auction for the first time. It is a rare opportunity, even behind a screen, to see such ensembles before each objects finds a new owner to, perhaps, form a new collection.

The show has already started last Thursday with the second edition of the *Ménagerie* sale at Christie's. A 'cross category' catalogue between Design and the Impressionist department coordinated to join forces and of course clients. Around a given theme the specialists assemble rare lots but also some that you could find in other 'general' sales, a difficult challenge but one that tends to bring higher prices. The best example would be the *Chat Maître d'Hôtel* by Diego Giacometti which usually fetches results around 100,000-120,000 USD. It was sold in each edition of this cross category sale at Christie's New York, first in 2018 for 636,500 USD, then 225,000 USD in 2019 and this year for 275,000 USD.

This year the *Ménagerie* presented stunning and rare lots such as a marble *Pan-thère se léchant la patte* by Rembrandt Bugatti. However, it totaled around 8 million USD against a high estimate of more than 12 million USD. On 27 lots, 6 did not sell (including the top lot) and less than half sold slightly above their high estimate.

Where the estimates too high, have the clients seen enough of the animal realm, or is this a cautionary tale? What seems obvious is that trends, taste and the way to collect are shifting again.



A *Jaguar* bench by Judy Kensley McKie sold for 200,000 USD

[Phillip's New York, Design, 9 December, live sale, 1 pm.](#)

The New York design week will start at Phillips with an sale led by the collection of Vladimir Kagan and Jason Jacques as well as a *Cumulus* table by Joris Laarman. The Italian section has unusual works by Gio Ponti such as the very elegant folding mirror. Amongst the Kagan Estate lots one can only be moved by the rare *Contour* rocking chair upholstered with the designer's wife, Erica Wilson, needlework. And if one wants to sit on history he should not miss the pair of rush armchairs by Koloman Moser. Combining structural and decorative functions these chairs were exhibited in the galleries of the 18th Secession exhibition in 1903.



A pair of armchairs by Koloman Moser, circa 1903
oak, rush. Executed by Prag-Rudni-
ker Korbwarenfabrik
Estimate: 25,000 - 35,000 USD
Lot 137

A folding mirror by Gio Ponti, circa 1934
Walnut-veneered wood, nickel-plated brass,
mirrored glass.
Manufactured by Luigi Fontana & C., T
Estimate: 8,000 - 12,000 USD
Lot 35



'Contour' rocking chair by Vladimir Kagan,
model no. 175F, circa 1955
walnut, embroidered fabric upholstery execut-
ed by Erica Wilson.
Estimate: 10,000 - 15,000 USD
Lot 54



[Sotheby's New York, A Celebration of Art Deco: Masterworks from the Collection of Dr. Stephen E. Kelly, evening sale 9 December 5 pm, day sale 10 December, 10 am](#)

It would appear that doctors make excellent art collectors. One can think of Dr. Herman Daled (radiologist) who assembled one of the greatest collection of conceptual art, Dr. Jean Dalsace (Gynecologist) who commissioned the *Maison de Verre* to Pierre Chareau, and so on. Dr. Stephen E. Kelly was an ophthalmologist and collected for over three decades all the 'greats' of the Art Deco period.

This astonishing sale will be divided between an evening auction presenting a curated selection and a day sale the following day. The first will comprise an important and unique six-panel screen by Eileen Gray, a rare *Oiseaux* low table by Armand-Albert Rateau and *L'Homme et son Destin* by Gustave Miklos. Although most of us will not get to see it in person the digital catalogue put together by the Sotheby's team (and available online) conveys in a beautiful way the magnificent geometries and texture of these magnificent works.



A 'Collarette' vase by Jean Dunand, circa 1925
lacquered metal, with original copper liner
signed
Estimate: 60,000 - 80,000 USD
Lot 9



A coupe by Gustave Miklos, 1921, blue agate, enamel,
(from the Jacques Doucet collection)
Estimate: 80,000 - 120,000 USD
Lot 25



Cigarette Case by Jean Goulden,
1929
silver, champlevé enamel
Estimate: 15,000 - 20,000 USD
Lot 14

French monumental Mirror, circa 1930
silver-plated bronze, mirrored glass, silk
tassels
Estimate: 8,000 - 12,000 USD
Lot 192

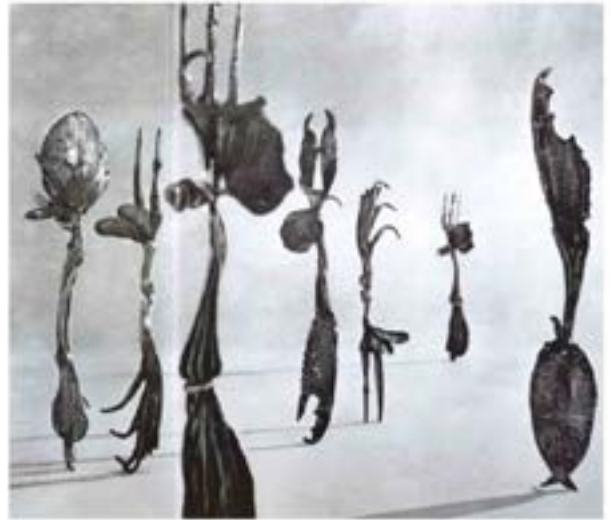


[Sotheby's New York, Important Design, 10 December, Live sale 2 pm.](#)

The following day, the various owner design sale will feature a survey of the past two centuries with notable examples of American Arts & Crafts and French Art Deco to outstanding pieces of Contemporary Design. A pair of side tables by Paul T. Frankl shows the ingenuity of the designer during the war time years and an early example of biomorphism in American mid century furniture. The auction is anchored by masterworks from the collection of Mike and Renée Silverstein amongst which one will admire the stunning metalwork of Maria Pergay and the beautiful works of Harry Bertoia. The highlights also include a selection of pieces by the Lalanne couple led by the enchanting “Iolas” flatware service.



A Pair of Important Side Tables
by Paul T. Frankl, circa 1945
cork, maple
Estimate: 15,000 - 20,000 USD
Lot 354



'Iolas' flatware service by Claude Lalanne,
designed circa 1966, executed 1986
Estimate: 200,000 - 300,000 USD
Lot 440



An Important and Unique Low Table by André
Borderie, Véra Szekely and Pierre Szekely,
circa 1955, commissioned by Henri Salvador
glazed earthenware, painted metal
Estimate: 40,000 - 60,000 USD
Lot 382

Untitled (Gong) by Harry Bertoia, 1972
Estimate: 50,000 - 70,000 USD
Lot 375



The design week will carry on mid-town where Christie's will hold an eclectic sale featuring iconic names of the the 20th century. The sale will be led by the Eileen Grey lacquer panel and unique cabinet from the private collection of Jacques Devos.

A special attention should be paid to the collection entitled 'The enquiring eye' as it features outstanding Art deco and *Wiener Werkstätte* lots kept behind closed doors for more than three decades. In addition, you will notice in the provenance the presence of the influent advisor and gallerist Barry Friedman. In a different style, the works by Frank Lloyd Wright appeal by their simplicity and charisma.

Important set of three light Fixtures by Joseph Hoffmann, from the Dr. Hermann Wittgenstein Commission, Vienna circa 1906
hammered silvered brass, glass
Estimate: 200,000 - 300,000 USD
Lot 170



A pair of 'Fennecs' table lamps by Armand Albert Rateau, circa 1919-1920
patinated bronze, alabaster stamped
Estimate: 200,000 - 300,000 USD
Lot 40



'Iride' Floor Lamp by Ico Parisi, circa 1970
manufactured by Lamperti
painted aluminum, painted metal
Estimate: 10,000 - 15,000 USD
Lot 128



A Rare Sconce by Pierre Chareau, circa 1920
patinated iron, alabaster
Estimate: 30,000 - 50,000 USD
Lot 49

[Bonhams New York, Modern Decorative Art + Design, 17 December, live sale at 11 am.](#)

If you venture to Bonhams you will find a very elegant and eclectic sale featuring similar names of the 20th century and contemporary design. Take a look at the sculptural *Console au boa* (the same as the one featured at Sotheby's), the exquisite Rug made for Jeanne Lanvin by Armand Albert Rateau and the unique vases by Yoichi Ohara.

'Boa' console by Albert Cheuret, circa 1925-30
silvered bronze, black marble, surmounted with a
rounded mirror, stamped to the base
Estimate: 25,000 - 30,000 USD
Lot 21



Rug by Armand-Albert Rateau, circa 1921, for Jeanne Lanvin Couture.
Estimate: 20,000-30,000 USD
Lot 36



Unique vase by Yoichi Ohara, 2001,
blown, carved and polished deep green glass with opaque
red lip wrap,
Estimate: 8,000 - 12,000 USD
Lot 136

En passant:

[Wright, Chicago, Design, 17 December 2020, live sale, 12 pm](#)



A rare and important 'Mesa' table by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, 1953, walnut, manufactured by Widdicomb
Estimate: 50,000–70,000 USD
Lot 112



Piccolo Albero shelf by Andrea Branzi, 2013
mirror-polished stainless steel, beech
Estimate: 30,000–50,000 USD
Lot 118

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