

JUNE SALES ROUND UP

‘When you pay high for the priceless, you're getting it cheap’ used to say the dealer Joseph Duveen to his clients.

He could have comforted more than one collector this season. It is a bit early to draw conclusions about sales held at Christie's and Sotheby's these past weeks but the prices for the design market seem to have grown quite high and very quickly. Talking about contemporary art, Dominique Levy said in an interview ‘art has reached the level of an asset class. So the question is: what calls for these prices?’

Why does one kind of Dandelion by the American artist Harry Bertoia sell for more than 1.9 million dollars and another - the following lot - for \$352,800? Why does a unique chandelier from 1965 sold directly by the godson of the Lalanne couple sells for 302,400€ and within the same sale a lamb from an edition of 500 for 520,700€? Supply and demand? consequence of inflation? A taste that wants what it wants?

Whatever the motivations might be, one can only recognize the commitment of collectors to high end design. Amongst the other remarkable prices of the sales between New York one can highlight the Noguchi table sold for \$1.1 million (estimate of \$700,000 - 1,000,000), most likely a record for the artist. Still in New York at Christie's the splendid chandelier by Josef Hoffmann sold for \$425,000 (estimate of a slender *Marozeau* daybed by Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann sold for \$237,500 (estimate \$60 - 80,000).

In Paris Sotheby's sold a *Singe II* by François-Xavier Lalanne fetched 1.525.000 € (estimate 300-500,000 €). Christie's saw record breaking prices for Line Vautrin with a rare *Solaire* mirror sold for \$150,000 (estimate \$40-60,000) in the private collection offered in New York and an early *Papyrus* mirror by Line Vautrin sold for 112,500 € (for an estimate of 30-40,000 €) in Paris.

The upcoming sales will offer other outstanding and beautiful works of design and it remains to be seen if the collectors will continue to raise their paddle with the same devotion. In the meantime, I would like to share my selection with you.



Singe II by François-Xavier Lalanne, 1999, estimate 300,000 - 500,000 €
sold: 1,525,000 €

What to look at

In New York

[Phillips, New York, Design, 9 June, Live sale, 9 am](#)

The sale is anchored by two outstanding works of Alberto Giacometti, a *Grecque* table lamp and *Parallélépipédique* andirons. These simple and elegant designs sublime the eye by their timeless and truly sensorial qualities. Nelson Rockefeller had the same lamp in his apartment. Alongside these highlights one will notice a rare and visually striking mirror by Max Ingrand for Fontana Arte as well as an 'Erica' chair by Vladimir Kagan coming directly from the designer's estate.



A *Grecque* table lamp by
Alberto Giacometti,
circa 1937
\$80,000 - 120,000

Rare mirror by Max Ingrand
for Fontana Arte
1960s
\$7,000 - 9,000



Rare pair of *Parallélépipédique* andirons
by Alberto Giacometti, circa 1931
Estimate \$300,000 - 400,000

'Erica' chaise longue by Vladimir Kagan,
circa 1970, estimate \$4,000 - 6,000





After the excitement of the Spring sales Christie's will present La Rêverie: The Collection of Sydell Miller. A grouping of fine and decorative arts from the beauty mogul executive's Palm Beach home, decorated by architect Peter Marino. The sale will be divided between works of fine art comprising pieces and sculpture by Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Adolph Gottlieb, Joan Miró, Jean Dubuffet and Joan Mitchell and Decorative art. In this second section the highlight is a rare table by François-Xavier Lalanne designed especially for Sydell Miller (the circumstances are not explicit in the catalogue). The estimate is robust, \$1,000,000-1,500,000 but the model is rare - only four others are known and all are in private hands. However, my eye was caught by the pair of Sphinxes by Claude Lalanne that could guard your home under their mystic and whimsical eyes for \$600,000-800,000. Overall the sale presents with high estimates perhaps representative of purchase prices through a decorator. For instance the pair of unique commodes by André Dubreuil is audaciously offered for an estimate of \$120,000-180,000.



Pair of *Sphinxes* by Claude Lalanne, 2000
estimate \$600,000-800,000



Troupeau d'éléphants dans les arbres table
by François-Xavier Lalanne, 2001
estimate \$1,000,000-1,500,000

In Chicago

[Wright, Important Design, Chicago, Live sale](#)

A beautiful sale led by an outstanding and rare coffee table by Isamu Noguchi, this one not made by the artist himself like the one sold at Sotheby's New York but an early example (1945-47) produced by Herman Miller under the direction of George Nelson. This model, the IN-62, was never adapted to large-scale production and fewer than ten are known today with two leg variants. As a side note, this table shows the supportive and visionary mind of the manufacturer who was open to producing works of design that were also claiming to be sculptures.

Another highlight of the sale is the unique Alexandre Noll's personal desk. Combined with an attractive estimate Noll's unique and beautiful work will certainly attract the connoisseurs interest.



Rare coffee table, model IN-62, by
Isamu Noguchi
estimate: \$500,000–700,000



l'Oeil floor lamp by Nicola L.,
1969
estimate: \$5,000–7,000



Lounge chairs, pair and
ottoman by Paul Laszlo, 1950
estimate: \$5,000–7,000



Chair by
Alexander Noll,
1941
estimate:
\$10,000–15,000



Unique desk by Alexander Noll, circa 1935, estimate: \$30,000–50,000

[Wright, Chicago, Important Italian glass, 11 June, live sale, 11 am](#)

Wright will also be the home for Italian Design and Glass sale. One might notice the mesmerizing rilievi vase as well as the irresistible pulcini by Alessandro Pianon. The furniture sale offers a pair of rare and charming T29 stools by Ettore Sottsass, pending authenticity checks, as well as poetic works by Andrea Branzi.



Pulcini by Alessandro Pianon,
Vistosi, circa 1963
estimate: \$4,000–6,000

Rare and Monumental Rilievi vase
by Carlo Scarpa for Venini, circa 1935
estimate: \$150,000–200,000



Domestic Animals chair
by Andrea Branzi,
1985 / 2008
estimate: \$4,000–5,000



Flying Table from the Men and Flowers series by Andrea Branzi,
Design Gallery Milano, 2006, estimate: \$10,000–15,000



Pair of Dado stools, model no. T29, by Ettore Sottsass,
Poltronova, circa 1963
estimate: \$10,000–15,000

[Ader, Paris, Arts Décoratifs et Sculptures du XXIème siècle, 18 june 2021, live sale, 2pm](#)

The Art Déco and modernist amateur should not miss this beautiful sale presenting exceptional pieces from private provenances at considerate estimates. An exceptional and most likely unique commode by Eugène Printz bought in 1934 directly from the artist who decorated their entire home. A related model can be found in the collection of the Musée des Arts de la ville de Paris. A beautiful and rare relief of the walking panther by Paul Jouve only produced in an edition of 7. The last section is dedicated to the exceptional collection of Monsieur et Madame R. from their apartment in Neuilly decorated by the ensemblier René Prou between 1957 et 1961.



Exceptional commode by Eugène Printz, 1934,
estimate 300000 - 500000 €



Large Cylindre vase by George Jouve,
the model designed in 1955
estimate 10000 - 15000 €



Unique pair of chauffeuses by Gilbert
Poillerat for the decoration of M. and
Mme R by Jean-René Prou, 1960
estimate 4000-6000 €



A unique angle sofa by Gilbert Poillerat
for the decoration of M. and Mme R by
Jean-René Prou, 1960
estimate 10000 - 15000 €

En passant:



[Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Design, 10 June 2021, 8pm](#)

“AJ”. 12 sets of patinated brass door handles with 14 matching keyhole plate sets by Arne Jacobsen

Designed for the SAS Royal Hotel, 1958

20,000–25,000 kr
(2689,42 - 3361,78 €)



[Quittenbaum, Munich, Art Nouveau, Art Déco, 9 June, live sale 3 pm.](#)

Armchair by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott
circa 1901-03

Two copies of the model were made with different mother-of-pearl motifs by the Dresdener Werkstätten, Hellerau, and presented at the workshop exhibition in the ‘Lady’s sitting room’ and ‘Lady’s bedroom’ respectively, in 1903. The same model appears already in the catalogue of JP White, Pyghtle Works, Bedford, 1901, though. Without cushion.

estimate: 9,000 - 12,000 €

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