

# CHRISTIE'S

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## 20/21 DESIGN

At Christie's London

Led by an inaugural Evening Auction at King Street

- Christie's King Street, 4 November
- Christie's South Kensington, 28 October



CARLO MOLLINO (1905-1973)  
A RARE AND IMPORTANT DESK, 1953-1954  
Estimate: £50,000-70,000



CHARLOTTE PERRIAND (1903-1999)  
A 'MEXIQUE' CABINET, CIRCA 1953  
Estimate : £60,000-90,000

**London** – This season, Christie's is pleased to announce the London sales of **20/21 DESIGN**, which include an inaugural **Evening Sale** in King Street on 4 November, and a Day auction in South Kensington on 28 October. The Evening Sale will present a varied selection of luxury designer furniture from Italy, France, Brazil, Scandinavia as well as an Important Private collection of mid-century French design featuring works by Charlotte Perriand, such as the 'Mexique' cabinet, circa 1953, illustrated above (estimate: £60,000–90,000) and by Jean Royère, Jean Prouvé and André Arbus. This auction is complemented by the South Kensington sale on 28 October, which will offer discerning collectors and those furnishing their homes the opportunity to view a wider group of works from Art Nouveau to Contemporary Design.

**Jeremy Morrison, Senior Director, 20/21 Design, London comments:** *'Our two Design sales are targeted to reflect our global market leadership in 20<sup>th</sup> century decorative art & design auctions over the last 40 years. The King Street sale offers a selected group of Post War and Contemporary Design, complemented by Pre-War avant-garde works, by the main proponents of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Design which will appeal to international collectors and private clients. Our South Kensington sale has a wider remit, also covering earlier 20<sup>th</sup> Century Design periods, with prices from £1,000, and is therefore ideal for those new to our field or auctions more generally, as well as our established international base of collectors.'*

## MID-CENTURY FRENCH DESIGN FROM AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTION



The Evening Auction features a selection of mid-century design from an important private collection featuring furniture by André Arbus, Jean Royère, Jean Prouvé and Charlotte Perriand. The rare suite by Arbus, illustrated left and right, comprise a pair of lounge chairs (estimate: £70,000 -100,000, *one illustrated right*) and



a corresponding asymmetric tête-à-tête settee (estimate: £40,000 – 60,000, *illustrated left*). Utilizing only metals, the furnishings were executed by Mercier Frères and the bronze platforms cast by Susse Fondeur – one of France's oldest foundries, established in 1758. The dramatic sweeping styling of the seat-form was able to fluently synthesize references to the Antique, notably the Klismos chairs of ancient Greece, with the modern, soaring profiles of progressive contemporary architecture.

## BRAZILIAN DESIGN

The auction will also offer a selection of Brazilian design, which rarely appears in auction in Europe, and will feature works by the Campana Brothers, Oscar Niemeyer and José Zanine Caldas. The highlight of the group is a rare and early work, the Peixe bench (Estimate £80,000 – 120,000), created in 1989 by Humberto and Fernando Campana and presented by them as part of their Desconfortável (uncomfortable) collection of furniture at the Nucleon 8 Gallery in São Paulo.

The exhibition presented a group of tables, chairs and screens made with steel sheet and represented the beginning of a new chapter for Brazilian design. With sheets of welded steel used to make a bench shaped as a large fish, this work exemplifies the brothers' humour and gift of revealing the inherent poetic qualities of the material. Commenting upon the raw finish of the metal surface, Humberto observed "the idea was to take advantage of the error, to see poetry in the error."



Born in Belmonte on the southern costa of Bahia, José Zanine Caldas was a self-taught artist, designer and architect. The present lot is a rare bench circa 1975, which articulates the principles that guided his vision of furniture making (estimate: £18,000– 25,000, *illustrated left*). A functional piece, the bench reflects

the dynamism of the wood, the grains, the cracks and changes imposed by time to now become essential components of the design.

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## NORDIC DESIGN



The Evening Auction also features a strong group of works by leading Swedish, Finnish and Danish designers. These include a desk set from the 1970s, comprising two trays, a pen holder, a ruler, a letter opener and a magnifying glass by Henning Koppel for Gerog Jensen (estimate: £4,000 – 6,000, *illustrated left*) as well as a rare sofa produced by Danish architect Philip Arctander in 1949-1950 (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000, *illustrated below*). One of the leading forces behind the establishment of the Danish Building Research Institute, Arctander was intensely engaged with issues

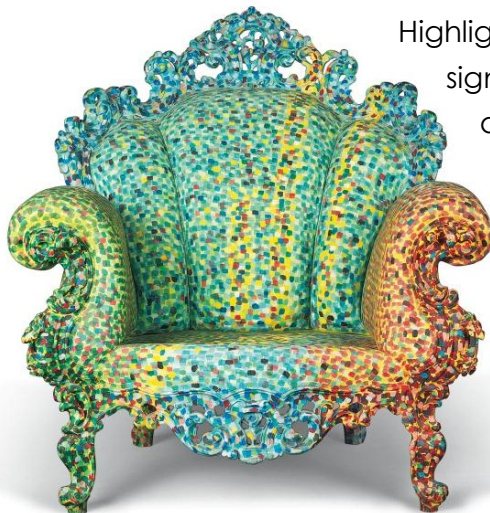
surrounding architecture and social responsibilities, and was appointed Head of Research when the institute was founded in 1947. It was for this commission that he designed the present lot, of which only two examples were made.



Further highlights from the Nordic section include a pair of 'Mix' club chairs, model '4396', designed in 1931 by Kaare Klint, who is acknowledged as the founding father of Danish Modernism (estimate: £60,000-80,000, *illustrated left*). As an architect and furniture designer, Klint established the principles of modern Danish furniture by combining a profound appreciation of traditional construction techniques with a modernist emphasis on function and a rejection of ornament. The name of the present chairs, 'Mix', refers to the names Kindt & Klint and was suggested by Kaare Klint

himself to acknowledge the contribution to the chair's design by Klint's former student Edvard Kindt-Larsen.

## ITALIAN AVANT GARDE



Highlights from the Italian Avant-garde section of the sale include a significant group of vessels and vases by Ettore Sottsass, as well as an early 'Poltrona di Proust' armchair, designed in 1978 by Alessandro Mendini, this example executed early 1980s (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*). As a leading member of the of the influential design collectives, Global Tools, and subsequently Studio Alchimia, Alessandro Mendini endures as one of the most influential theorists and practitioners of Italian avant-garde design, guiding the progressive and experimental attitudes that defined a new spirit in Italian design during the 1970s, and into the 1980s.

In 1978 Mendini presented his first examples of 're-design', whereby recognisable existing chair types were altered through the application of improbable surface treatment. This action aspired to remove any pretensions of Modernism by suggesting that the meaning and value of a design could be communicated solely through apparently superfluous decoration. In the case of this design, examples of which were first exhibited in 1978, the decoration determined by Mendini was motivated by the impressionistic brushstrokes of a Pointilist painting by Paul Signac. For the first four or five chairs that were created, a projection of the Signac artwork was directed upon the chair, permitting the artist to replicate the Signac brushstrokes, reworking the chair's identity as both canvas and frame to Mendini's Postmodernist statement.

### CONTEMPORARY GLASS BY YOICHI OHIRA



Christie's evening Sale 20/21 Design is pleased to present a selection of works by the renowned Contemporary glass designer Yoichi Ohira, carefully selected by a private collector in Milan: Mrs. Norma Cortellini. Ohira's understanding for the tradition and history of glassmaking in Murano, combined with his distinct imagination and Far Eastern aesthetic, situates him as one of the most original and skilled glassmakers. Mrs. Cortellini collected these pieces with enthusiasm and an acute understanding of Ohira's sensibility and skills.

A fortuitous discovery brought Ohira to Venice in 1973. Having worked as a glassblower in Japan since 1969, Ohira came across a book called Murano which illustrated the use of ancient glassmaking techniques in a small island near Venice, Murano. Excited and amazed by the fine glass, he moved to Venice and completed a degree in Sculpture at the Fine Art Academy, with a dissertation entitled 'The Aesthetic of Glass'. The vessels in this collection articulate Ohira's fascination with the distinctive metamorphic qualities of this medium. Glass has been used for centuries to mimic characteristics found in precious stones. Ohira takes this aspect further, creating pieces that evoke the reflection of the water of the canals in Venice (lots 240, 245, 248, 252), marble and stone (lot 238, 239) or eggshell and lacquer (lot 241). With other vessels, like Petali (lot 243) or Nostalgia (lot 249), Ohira conveys the tensions between transparency and opacity, interior and exterior through the expert use of a vast array of techniques.

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## 20/21 DESIGN: 1900 TO NOW AT SOUTH KENSINGTON



The 28 October sale [20/21 Design: 1900 to Now](#) at Christie's South Kensington features furniture, lighting, sculpture, ceramics, glass and metalwork by designers over a wider period spanning the last 120 years. The auction showcases craftsmanship and design from Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Mid Century and Contemporary Design.

Feature works include a fine selection of Art Deco figures by Demetre Chiparus led by 'Fan Dancer' (estimate: £70,000-90,000, *illustrated left*).

The sale also contains a distinctive group of monochrome furniture by celebrated Italian designer Piero Fornasetti, designed in the 1950s and bought by the owners from Atelier Fornasetti in the 1980s; a private collection of Art Nouveau cameo glass by Emile Gallé and Daum and pâte-de-verre by Gabriel Argy-Rousseau; and items designed by the leading Arts & Crafts exponents William Morris, C.F.A. Voysey and Philip Webb. Concluding the sale is glass by René Lalique in a broad spectrum of colours. Estimates range from £1,000 to £90,000.

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**PRESS CONTACT:** Alexandra Deyzac | 02073892265 | [adeyzac@christies.com](mailto:adeyzac@christies.com)

**Please click below for the complete eCatalogues**

[South Kensington - 28 October](#)

[King Street - 4 November](#)

### **PUBLIC EXHIBITION:**

#### **King Street**

Friday 31 October 9.00 am - 4.30 pm  
Saturday 1 November 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm  
Sunday 2 November 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm  
Monday 3 November 9.00 am - 8.00 pm  
Tuesday 4 November 9.00 am - 12.00 noon

#### **South Kensington**

Friday 24 October 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Saturday 25 October 11.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Sunday 26 October 11.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Monday 27 October 9.00 am - 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 28 October 9.00 am - 12 noon

### **AUCTION:**

Tuesday 4 November 2014  
6.00 pm. Lots 201-342

Tuesday 28 October 2014  
2.00 pm. Lots 1 - 150

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

