

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S AUCTION OF IMPORTANT 20TH CENTURY DECORATIVE ART & DESIGN EXPLORES THE ART OF LIVING



LEFT: Property of a Distinguished Collector, from Gio Ponti's Villa Arreaza in Caracas, Venezuela

RIGHT: Property from the Collection of Barry Friedman and Patricia Pastor

New York – On June 12, Christie's will present its Spring Auction of **Important 20th Century Decorative Art & Design** in New York. The sale features furniture, lighting, ceramics and jewelry representing the major stylistic movements of the 20th and 21st centuries from celebrated artists and designers including René Lalique, Carlo Bugatti, Marcel Breuer and more. Among the many highlights are a strong Art Deco section, contemporary ceramics and glass, important Tiffany lamps and vases, and a wide selection of Scandinavian and Italian design objects. Additional highlights include two exceptional Bertoia sculptures, one-of-a-kind artist's jewelry and property from the esteemed collections of Edwin and Lindy Bergman, the Hascoe family and the Krikorian family. Christie's asked four of today's most talented young interior designers, Suysel dePedro Cunningham, Anne Maxwell Foster, Nick Olsen and Sara Gilbane Sullivan to pinpoint their favorite lots from the auction. [Click here to see their picks.](#)

ART DECO



Leading the sale's Art Deco selection is a pair of 'King Cobra' Urns by Edgar Brandt, circa 1921-1922 (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). Edgar Brandt was the protean artist/blacksmith of his era. Brandt, an able conjuror of metal casting, produced these magisterial and lordly bronze cobras. One pair of cobra heads, on the right side of each urn, stare down the opposite pair in an authoritative posture of opening their jaws wide and flaring their lethal fangs and tongue. Their long bodies, placed vertically on the vessels, replicate their muscular ability, in real life, to stand upright just before they strike out at their prey.

The present model of *L'Atlantique* (\$12,000-18,000) – pictured on page 2, right, was made by the British company Bassett-Lowke, who were the pre-eminent suppliers of model trains, boats and ships from 1900 to 1965. In the late 1920's and 30's, luxurious ocean liners had become sleek, fast and exceedingly lavish with décor often showcasing exceptional examples of the popular Art Deco and Streamline Moderne Art movements of the day. Prior to the 1950s, a liner was the only way to cross the Atlantic, and the *SS L'Atlantique* was the largest and most luxurious liner on the Europe-South America route. The Compagnie de Navigation Sud Atlantique ordered 28 1:100 scale models of their new flagship luxury liner in 1931, and the present example was owned by the steamship line and housed in their Paris warehouse after service was terminated. It remains the only known example from the group of 28.



MODERN

From the Property of a Distinguished Collector, are five wonderful examples from Gio Ponti that originally graced Villa Arreaza in Caracas, Venezuela. Built in the mid-1950s, Villa Arreaza was commissioned by Blanca Arreaza and was one of Ponti's finest private residences of the period. The villa was one of two houses Ponti was asked to design in Caracas in the 1950s, both located in the hills above the city. Villa Arreaza was also known by the name The Diamond House, owing to the bold geometric schemes Ponti applied throughout the house and in the furniture he designed for the house, paired with sensuous hues of blues and whites. He outfitted the house with folding doors and large windows to perfectly blend the landscaped gardens as much as possible with the breezy open-plan interiors. The present lots have been preserved after the villa was partially demolished in the 1990s. The group is led by a Set of Eight Dining Chairs (\$70,000-90,000) – pictured left, and an Important Dining Table (\$70,000-90,000), pictured together in in the dining room of Villa Arreaza, on page 1, left.



Also highlighting the Modern section is an Important Low Table by Ettore Sottsass, circa 1955 (estimate: \$70,000 – \$90,000). Ettore Sottsass Jr. enjoyed a long collaboration with the Grassotti family, having been first commissioned to create furnishings for both their villa and business headquarters in 1947. That same year he was invited by Grassotti - whose family distillery produced Vermouth - to design graphics and an overall brand identity for the company. Several years later, in 1955, Sottsass designed a further residence for the family, located in the foothills of the Alps overlooking Turin, for which the present unique lot was designed. During this period of the mid-1950s, Sottsass produced only few designs of furniture, all of which were conceived for specific commissions such as the Casa Grassotti. To complement his own furniture and interior designs, Sottsass installed American-imported seating by Florence Knoll and by Eero Saarinen in this commission.



CONTEMPORARY



Representing the auction's Contemporary group is Marc Newson's Event Horizon Table (\$120,000 – \$180,000). This emblematic work from Newson has been published widely in design and fashion publications, and was the only example to be produced with a blue interior. For the artist's 2007 solo show at Gagosian, New York, curator Louise Neri described the "Event Horizon" series: "Across his protean output, Newson has been preoccupied with how to achieve a maximum sense of volume with the least amount of material (or mass) possible, thereby creating space as a grand illusion of that volume."

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



Tiffany Studios
A 'Wisteria' Table Lamp, Circa 1905
Leaded Glass, Bronze
Estimate: \$250,000 - 350,000



Carlo Bugatti (1856-1940)
A Pair Of Side Chairs, Circa 1900
Walnut With Brass, Pewter And Ebony Inlay
Estimate: \$15,000 - 20,000



Harry Bertoia (1915-1978)
A Bush Sculpture, Circa 1960
Patinated Bronze
Estimate: \$50,000 - 70,000



Alexandre Noll (1890-1970)
'Grand Totem' A Sculpture
Circa 1945
Carved Oak
Estimate: \$200,000 - 300,000



Carlo Mollino (1905-1973)
An Occasional Table, Circa 1950
Maple, Glass, Brass Details
Estimate: \$80,000 - 120,000



Man Ray (1890-1976)
A Pendant, Circa 1973
Gold, Cord
Estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000



Jean Prouve (1901-1984)
A Sideboard, Circa 1950
Enameled Steel, Oak, Aluminum
Estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000



Edgar Brandt (1880-1960)
'Les Jets D'eau' Mirror, 1925-26
Parcel-Gilt Wrought Iron
Estimate: \$70,000 - 90,000



Dan Johnson (B.1938)
A 'Gazelle' High-Backed Lounge Chair, 1950s
Walnut, Caning
Estimate: \$8,000 - 12,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual 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 totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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