

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON
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TREASURES FROM DESIGN EMPORIUM TALISMAN

At Christie's South Kensington, 5 November



Interior featuring lots from the sale



A monumental 'Coadestone' fragment of the torso of Polyphemus from Fontbill, Wiltshire



Interior featuring lots from the sale

South Kensington – On 5 November Christie's will offer a broad cross-section of furniture and objects from design emporium Talisman. A glamorous intersection between antiques, interiors and fashion, Talisman champions pieces that are as much about personality as provenance. The auction comprises 277 lots and presents the opportunity to acquire objects collected by Ken Bolan, who founded Talisman in Dorset in 1982. In 2006 Bolan opened Talisman's flagship store in London, in a converted art deco garage on the New King's Road, followed in 2010 by a second showroom on Ebury Street. With the gradual migration of the firm's business to London the decision was taken to close the Dorset showroom, giving the initial impetus for this sale, which includes items carefully selected from all Talisman's stores. The sale mixes objects both old and new, bold and subtle with estimates ranging from £500 to £80,000. The auction will be on public exhibition at Christie's South Kensington from 1 to 4 November 2014 and is expected to realise in excess of £800,000.

Adrian Hume-Sayer, Specialist and Associate Director, House Sales: *"It has been a great pleasure to work with Ken Bolan in preparing this sale; he has a brilliant eye for the bold and unusual. He gave Christie's access to all his salerooms, allowing us to put together a really interesting group, which offers a fantastic opportunity to buy into Talisman's unique aesthetic."*

Ken Bolan, Talisman: *"We are thrilled to be working with Christie's on this sale which I believe truly represents the diversity of Talisman's aesthetic and entire stock across all our showrooms and online. The full cross-section and theatricality of what we do – from antiques to modern works of art – have been included in this selection, and there are many exceptional lots encapsulating Talisman's signature style which would enhance any interior or garden."*

SCULPTURE

The *Talisman* sale includes a broad selection of sculpture, for both house and garden, as well as an interesting group of cast-iron garden furniture, predominantly 19th century from the sought-after Coalbrookdale foundry. Leading the sale is the monumental Fonthill 'Coadestone' torso of the giant Polyphemus which dates from *circa* 1800 (estimate: £50,000-80,000, *illustrated page 1, centre*). An immensely rare survival, this unique sculpture was purchased in 1843 by James Morrison – an exceptionally rich merchant, politician and art collector, often referred to as '*the richest commoner in England*' – for the grounds of the great mansion he created at Fonthill, Wiltshire. This magnificent sculpture is one of very few pieces to survive from Morrison's Fonthill, which was demolished in the early 20th century. Further highlights include a life-size bronze sculpture of a 1930s Bugatti Type 51 by French sculptor Christian Maas (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*). The sculpture is modelled



on the car of the famed French racing driver, Maurice Trintignant, who is portrayed at the wheel of the car. Trintignant won both the 1938 and 1939 Grand Prix des Frontières with his trusty Bugatti. After the Second World War he went on to drive for the Gordini team in the newly created formula One World Championships, twice winning the Monaco Grand Prix in 1955 and 1958, and was the last driver to drive a Bugatti (this time a Type 251) at a Grand Prix race in 1956.

FURNITURE

Talisman is renowned for sourcing and commissioning furniture of exceptional quality. The sale includes a broad range of examples, from a Louis XIV oyster-veneered commode of *circa* 1700 (estimate: £4,000-6,000, *illustrated page 3*) and 18th century painted Swedish furniture, to striking 20th century design including a group of pieces by the renowned designer Paul Evans and an important 'Bathers' bronze and pewter table by Philip and Kelvin Laverne, *circa* 1968 (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *table top illustrated right*) inspired by the work of Henri Matisse. The sale also includes a selection of pieces by Talisman both from their *Talisman Bespoke* and *Talisman Edition* ranges.



LIGHTING



The sale features a strong selection of unusual and striking table and floor lamps, such as a brass and steel floor standing 'palm tree' lamp, in the manner of Maison Jansen (estimate: £1,200-1,800, *illustrated above left*) and a set of five spherical 'spin lamps' (estimate: £1,500-2,500, *illustrated above centre*) and a large stainless steel angle-poise 'movie' floor lamp by Curtis Jeré (estimate: £3,000-5,000, *illustrated above right*).

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

		
A 'Talisman Edition' teal-lacquered desk 1930s, remodelled by Talisman Estimate: £2,000-3,000	A lacquered-bronze 'Ibex' dining table by Alain Chervet, 1970s Estimate: £12,000-18,000	A life size cast-aluminium model of a rhino by Christian Maas Estimate: £8,000-12,000
		
A group of four life size brass and copper hanging perching parrots and toucans (two of four illustrated) by Sergio Bustamante, <i>circa</i> 1970 Estimate £5,000-8,000	A gilt-metal 'owl' sculpture by Curtis Jeré, 1970 Estimate £1,500-2,500	A set of yellow-painted metal chairs <i>circa</i> 1960, in the manner of Dorothy Draper Estimate: £4,000-6,000
		
Louis XIV oyster-veneered laburnum ebony and ash commode, <i>circa</i> 1700 Estimate £4,000-6,000	A grey-painted 'elephant' bar and stools by Marge Carson, late 20th/early 21st century Estimate: £1,500-2,500	A pair of 'Fern and Blackberry' pattern cast-iron garden benches by Coalbrookdale, mid-19th century Estimate: £3,000-5,000

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Public Exhibition:
1 to 4 November 2014

Auction:
Talisman
5 November 2014
10:30 am

Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

About Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from under £1,000. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others.

About Talisman

Both Talisman showrooms offer an unrivalled eclectic mix of antiques, 20th century and contemporary design that has made Talisman a key destination for interior designers and collectors across the globe. With an unrivalled selection of furniture, accessories and sculpture spanning the centuries, Talisman has long been in the address books of top fashion and interior designers and continues to introduce a new audience to its inimitable style and character. In an age of mass production, it is increasingly rare to find such unique objects of craftsmanship and rarer still to find someone who, like Ken Bolan, can present them with such style, flair and taste. Open 10am to 6pm Monday to Saturday; 190-192 Ebury Street, London, SW1W 8UP and 79-91 New King's Road, London, SW6 4SQ.
www.talismanlondon.com