

For Immediate Release

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SPECTACULAR OFFERING OF 20TH CENTURY DECORATIVE ART & DESIGN AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK THIS JUNE

New York - Christie's New York will offer an extraordinary selection of 20th Century Decorative Art & Design on June 13 in its Rockefeller saleroom. The sale will present exquisite examples of iconic works from the most sought-after designers of furniture and objects from all major movements of the 20th and 21st centuries, such as Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau and Art Deco through to mid-century design and contemporary design, with many lots hailing from some of the finest private collections in the world. The sales kick off with a separate auction dedicated to *An Important Private Collection of French Bronze and Ivory Figures*, which features some of the most spectacular figures by Chiparus to come to the market (see separate release), and follows with the various owner offerings. The total estimate for both sales is in the region of \$6.6-9.5 million.



A major highlight of the sale is a cypress and bronze 'Lotus' Table, circa 1906 by the preeminent Minneapolis designer John Scott Bradstreet (estimate: \$350,000-\$550,000). The finest of only four known examples, the 'Lotus' table offered at Christie's distinguishes itself by a unique characteristic – a small bronze turtle at the foot of the leaf-like base. Hailing from the same region, yet showing a distinctly different aesthetic approach is a group of furniture from a Philip Johnson house in Wayzata, Minnesota, known as The Davis House. Seven of the eight lots offered from this property are the product of a collaboration between three great American visionaries: architect, Philip Johnson, art collector and museum director, Richard Davis, and furniture maker Hollis S. Baker. Among the works by Philip Johnson is a set of ten walnut dining chairs and a walnut dining table

(both estimated: \$9,000-12,000). Also included is a steel and leather daybed by Poul Kjaerholm (estimate: \$12,000-18,000).

Representing the timeless elegance of Tiffany Studios are a number of lamps, and a glorious leaded glass window (estimate \$70,000-100,000), which was originally part of the Wendel House in New York. A spectacular 'Dogwood' leaded glass and bronze table lamp (estimate \$70,000-100,000) from the same private collection leads the section of Tiffany lamps.



The sale boasts a strong selection of works by Jean-Michel Frank from a private collection including two leather and wrought-iron armchairs estimated \$150,000-200,000 each. Originally executed for the Vicomte and Vicomtesse Charles de Noailles, the chairs were eventually gifted to Alexine 'Teeny' Duchamp, the wife of Marcel Duchamp. While Frank's minimalist works are decorative design objects in their own right, one can easily imagine them sharing space and complimenting cubist works by Duchamp and his contemporaries. Other mid-century French design featured in the sale include elegant examples of works by Jean Royère, such as a macassar ebony cabinet (estimate \$25,000-35,000), a group of works by Francois-Xavier and Claude Lalanne that include a splendid, patinated copper sculpture 'Rhinocéros Mécanique' by Francois-Xavier Lalanne (estimate: \$25,000-35,000), and from the Atelier Vallarius a selection of ceramics that include a glazed ceramic pitcher by Suzanne Ramie (estimate: \$5,000-7,000).

The Italian design section is complimented by a collection of furniture among which is a painted parchment, ebonized wood and metal inlaid cabinet from 1900 by Carlo Bugatti (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). Also highlighting this section is furniture created by Gio' Ponti for the Parco dei Principi Hotel during Rome's Dolce Vita in the sixties. A suede and vinyl upholstered painted wood sofa with matching arm and lounge chairs by Ponti have estimates that range between \$10,000-35,000. Also from Italy is a magnificent private collection of jewellery by GEM, Milan, including 20 examples of jewellery created by prominent artists including Pol Bury, Lucio Fontana, Gastone Novelli and Arnaldo Pomodoro, which forms a unique section of the catalogue. Three bracelets by the Italian Informel master Lucio Fontana are distinct highlights of this collection, with a gold bracelet from 1967 (estimate: \$12,000-18,000), and two stunning silver and



lacquer bracelets with estimates ranging from \$8,000-18,000. Many of Fontana's designs for GEM are inspired by his *concetto spaziale* series, begun in 1949, where he punctured and slashed the surfaces of his works.



Of the more contemporary offerings is a bench by Amanda Levete for Future Systems (estimate 40,000-60,000) and a Crest Chaise by Zaha Hadid (estimate: \$70,000-100,000) both from 2006. Demonstrating impeccable craftsmanship and a visionary eye are a group of rare pieces by Luis Barragan from the Casa Prieto Lopez. Entirely fresh to the market, these elegant works are among the rare examples of design executed by the highly influential Mexican architect, considered by many to be one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. Highlights include a Sabino and leather Barcelona chair, 1959 (estimate \$50,000-70,000), a Sabino low table (estimate: \$25,000-35,000), and a glass and parchment table lamp (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).

In addition to the major highlights, the sale will provide an extensive overview of the entire modern design movement, with lots ranging from early exemplary American craftsmanship, to French decorative arts to Scandinavian design. The Scandinavian section boasts superb creations by Finn Juhl, Erik Johansson, and Alvar Aalto. Combining science and design, the Danish scientist, inventor and poet, Piet Hein's designed his candelabra Ursa Major (estimate: \$6,000-8,000), to remind him of the eponymous star constellation he would gaze at back in Denmark during his stay in Argentina.



Auction: 20th Century Decorative Art & Design, June 13

Viewing: June 7 -12

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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

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Images available on request

