

For Immediate Release

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PIONEERING AND CUTTING EDGE MODERN DESIGN AT CHRISTIE'S



Rolls-Royce Occasional Table, 1971 by Ringo Starr & Robin Cruickshank
Estimate: £4,000-5,000 in Modern Design



Chaise Longue, 1928 by Le Corbusier
Estimate: £15,000-20,000 in Important 20th Century Design

Christie's South Kensington: Modern Design – 20 October 2004

Christie's King Street: Important 20th Century Design – 3 November 2004

Innovative, sleek and important modern designs by influential and enigmatic figures working during the 20th century will be offered as part of the series of autumn sales devoted to decorative arts and design at Christie's London. From affordable and cutting edge items in the popular **Modern Design** sale at South Kensington on 20 October, to pioneering pieces in the King Street **Important 20th Century Design** sale on 3 November, the sales will offer something for all collectors and budgets.

Modern Design – Christie's South Kensington

20 October 2004

An eagerly anticipated and popular annual event on the modern design calendar, the **Modern Design** sale will feature almost 300 lots of furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork, jewellery and industrial design. With estimates from £100 to £10,000 the auction is the perfect opportunity for interior designers, members of the public and collectors to acquire an innovative and affordable piece of design for the home.

The rock 'n' roll *Rolls-Royce Occasional Table*, 1971 designed by Ringo Starr and Robin Cruickshank and made with two requisitioned radiator grills (estimate: £4,000-5,000) is the first of its kind to be seen at Christie's and certain to attract strong interest. This piece is one of the wide selection of decadent 1970s designs that are currently much in demand for their sleek lines and polished finishes, apparent in the acrylic and steel *Mirrored Occasional Table/Bar* designed in 1972 and attributed to Willy Rizzo (estimate: £1,200-1,500).

Design classics from the 1950s are well represented, with affordable pieces from stellar international designers including Achille & Pier Giacomo Castiglioni, Robin Day, Charles & Ray Eames (such as the distinctive *RAR Rocking Chair*, designed 1950 at £500-700), Gio Ponti (with a stylish sheepskin *Pair of Lounge Chairs*, designed *circa* 1955 estimated at £3,000-4,000), and Piero Fornasetti.

Other highlights include Eero Saarinen's *Grasshopper Lounge Chair*, 1947 (estimate: £1,500-2,000), with its evocative shape and colourful striped wool upholstery; virtual room-sets such as Luigi Massoni's curvacious *Lullaby Bedroom Suite*, 1969 (estimate: £2,000-3,000) in red and white leather and vinyl upholstery; and stylised contemporary pieces from Mark Brazier-Jones.

Important 20th Century Design - Christie's King Street 3 November 2004

The significant and lasting influence of modern design is reflected in the Important 20th Century Design sale which will offer over 170 lots by some of the most pioneering and influential international 20th century designers and architects, with estimates from £500 to £80,000.

The sale will include a very important private collection of 30 mostly unseen Wiener Werkstätte objects from the descendants of the Wittgenstein family, great patrons of the fine arts in Vienna. The items are from the 1906 Viennese apartment which Paul Wittgenstein commissioned Josef Hoffmann to design, and range from a silver pen tray with inkwell (estimate: £5,000-8,000) to an exquisite silver cutlery set (estimate: £60,000-80,000), enabling collectors to recreate the stylish living of this era.

An outstanding and extremely rare original chaise longue designed by Le Corbusier with Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret (estimate: £15,000-20,000) is a star lot of this sale, and a timeless classic with its elegant shape and zig-zag structure. Another highlight is a gilt wood floor lamp *circa* 1920 attributed to Josef Hoffmann (estimate: £25,000-35,000).

Among the items by Italian designers is a large selection of Carlo Bugatti furniture *circa* 1900 which begins the sale, with an excellent example of his distinctive decorative style in the unusual *Asymmetric*

Chair (estimate: £10,000-15,000). An elegant three-piece suite with wool upholstery and brass legs by Marco Zanuso from 1954 (estimate: £4,000-5,000) is another good example.

A style particularly popular in France is apparent in the *Specimen Table*, *circa* 1950 by Jean-Charles Moreaux (estimate: £15,000-20,000) with its intricate marble marquetry and painted metalwork.

Other interesting lots include Gerald Summers' rare *One-Piece Lounge Chair* designed 1933-4 (estimate: £7,000-10,000), cut and folded from a single piece of birch plywood; a prototype of the seminal Charles & Ray Eames' lounge chair from *circa* 1945 (estimate: £6,000-8,000); and, the final lot, two striking silk mosaic panels by pioneering British fabric designer Lucienne Day from 1979 (estimate: £2,000-3,000).

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Images available on request
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London Decorative Arts Auction Calendar for the Autumn/Winter 2004 Season

Art Nouveau and Art Deco

12 and 13 October 2004

The Harry Lyons Collection

19 October 2004

Lalique Glass, 20th Century European Sculpture

11 November 2004

Arts and Crafts

1 December 2004

Moorcroft

2 December 2004