

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

November 13, 2009

Contact: Milena Sales

[msales@christies.com](mailto:msales@christies.com)

Tel. 212.636.2680

**CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS LARGEST GROUP OF LALANNE WORKS TO  
EVER BE OFFERED AT AUCTION THIS DECEMBER**

**Three Superb Sales of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design at Christie's  
New York on December 8**



**New York** – On Tuesday December 8, Christie's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design sales will showcase the entire range of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts, from Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, to the Modernist and Contemporary movements in three separate sales. The auctions featured are: *Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design*, *Magnificent Tiffany Featuring The Gluck Collection* (separate release available), and *Historical Design Reflects: The East 61<sup>st</sup> Street Years* (separate release available). With over 400 lots in three separate sales and a sale total expected in the region of \$9-14 million, the auctions create a comprehensive review of this rapidly expanding market.

## Extraordinary Lalanne

Christie's *Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design* sale will offer the largest selection of works to come to auction by the creative powerhouse couple François-Xavier and Claude Lalanne. The 52 works presented in the catalogue are expected to achieve \$1.9-\$2.9 million. Within this group of 52 works is the largest single-owner collection to come to market with 49 prime examples from the Lalannes.

François-Xavier and Claude Lalanne, or the Lalannes as they are collectively known, first attracted attention in Paris in the 1960's, through widely publicized commissions from Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé. Their source of imagery was the natural world, with Claude particularly fascinated by the textures and sensual lines of boldly scaled plants and François-Xavier captivated by wild animals. The present selection will offer collectors the opportunity to acquire highly coveted pieces by the Lalannes, which bear their celebrated signature style.



Among the highlights are two elegant large-scale works by François-Xavier Lalanne: 'Grand Wapiti', a patinated bronze elk designed in 1996 (pictured left, estimate: \$100,000-150,000), and a patinated bronze bear 'Grande Ourse' (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), designed in 1994. The collection also contains patinated bronze cheetah, 'Guépard, Tête de Coté', from 1994 (estimate: \$60,000-80,000).

The sale will offer two bronze and galvanized copper candelabra, 'Candélabre sur Pieds avec feuilles' (estimate for each: \$35,000-55,000) that were created by Claude Lalanne in 1999. A pair candelabra of the same model but with nine arm by Claude Lalanne graced the Rue de Babylone home of Yves Saint Laurent and sold for 145,000 euros this February at Christie's record-breaking Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé auction in Paris, where a world auction record was set for a work by the Lalannes. Also featured in the sale are a pair of painted wrought-iron and marble chairs 'Oiseaux de Marbres' (Grand modèle) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) and a matching low table (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). A set of sold in the Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé Paris for 337,000 euros.

Other exceptional highlights include furniture by Claude Lalanne, including a fantastic 'Crocodile Banquette' (pictured right, estimate: \$100,000-150,000), and a magnificent set of aluminum 'Gingko' pieces featuring several chairs (pictured page 1, estimate for each \$15,000-20,000), a low table (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), and a dining table (estimate:



\$50,000-80,000).

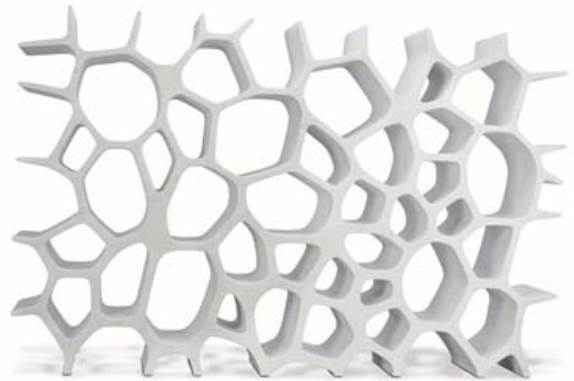
### Italian Design

The top lot of the sale is an important and ebonized wood and glass occasional table by the great Italian designer, Carlo Mollino (picture page 1, estimate: \$250,000-350,000). This rare and sublime table is said to have been personally owned by Mollino. Christie's set the record for a work by Mollino when a unique oak and glass table from the Casa Orenco sold in York for \$3,824,000.

The iconic Italian 1960's designer Joe Colombo will be represented in the sale by a pair of wool upholstered chromed-steel chaises longues (estimate : \$10,000-15,000) ; and a 'Dondolo' fiberglass-reinforced chaise by Cesare Leonardi and Franca Stagi will be offered at \$12,000-18,000.

### Contemporary

Of the contemporary offerings is a spectacular 'Voronoi' white Carrara marble shelf from 2006 by Marc Newson (pictured right, estimate: \$150,000-200,000); a Campana Brothers stuffed toy animal and steel banquette chair (estimate: \$20,000-30,000); and a delightful Verner Panton hanging light from circa 1970 (estimate: \$50,000-80,000).



### French Modernist Furniture and Works of Art

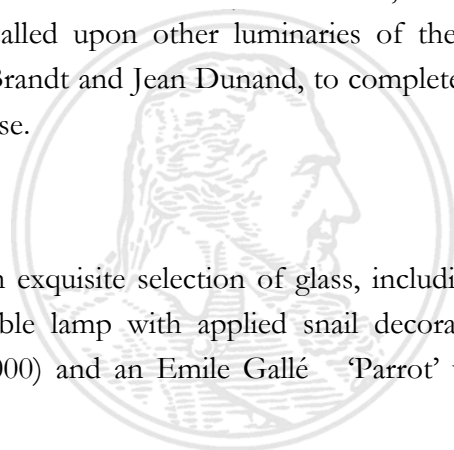
Among the notable highlights is a superb wrought-iron and leather desk by Jean-Michel Frank (estimate: \$60,000-90,000), executed by Comte, Buenos Aires. Also by Frank are a set of leather upholstered armchairs (estimate : \$30,000-50,000), and a mahogany low table (estimate : \$15,000-20,000).



An extraordinary highlight of the sale is a rare Jean Dupas painting from 1921, *La Femme à L'Ara*, (pictured left, estimate : \$100,000-150,000) preparatory painting for a mural for the townhouse, Hôtel Daverne in Bordeaux. Its owner called upon other luminaries of the era, including Maison Daum, Edgar Brandt and Jean Dunand, to complete the modernist interior of the townhouse.

### Glass

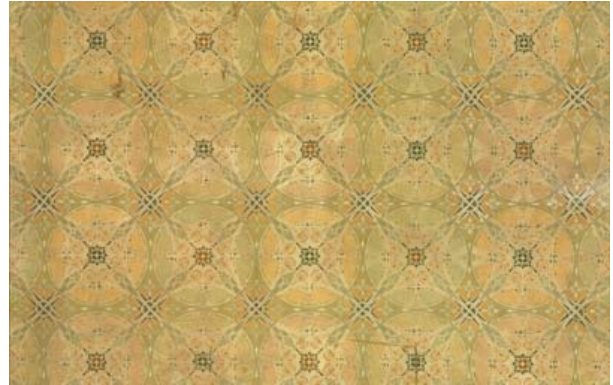
The sale will feature an exquisite selection of glass, including an overlaid, etched and vitrified table lamp with applied snail decoration by Daum (estimate : \$60,000-80,000) and an Emile Gallé 'Parrot' vase (estimate :



\$30,000-50,000).

### **American Architectural Elements**

Rounding out the sale will be a number of works by great American architects including a leaded glass panel by Frank Lloyd Wright from the Ward W. Willits House in Highland Park, Illinois (estimate: \$8,000-12,000) and architectural and decorative elements from the Chicago Stock Exchange Building by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler, such as a cast and wrought iron elevator enclosure (estimate: \$15,000-20,000) and a stenciled ceiling panel (pictured right, estimate: \$25,000-35,000). A



set of five George Washington Maher leaded glass windows from the Kenilworth Club, Kenilworth, Illinois will also be offered at an estimate of \$20,000-30,000.

**Auctions:** 8 December 2009 - *Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design, Magnificent Tiffany Featuring The Gluck Collection* (separate release available), and *Historical Design Reflects: The East 61<sup>st</sup> Street Years* (separate release available).

**Viewing:** 4-7 December at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. 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 450 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 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

###

*Images available on request*

Visit Christie's Website at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

Complete catalogue available online at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or via the Christie's iPhone app

Images from this sale are available at <ftp://ftpus.christies.com> (user name and password: christies)

