

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2011

Contacts: Sara Fox sfox@christies.com
Melissa Abernathy mabernathy@christies.com

tel +1 212 636 2680
tel +1 212 636 2680

**DISTINGUISHED CREATORS OF 20TH CENTURY DECORATIVE
ART & DESIGN SHOWCASED IN CHRISTIE'S DECEMBER SALES**

New York – On December 17, Christie's 20th Century Decorative Art & Design sales in New York will showcase the entire range of 20th Century Decorative Arts, from Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, and Art Deco, to the Modernist and Contemporary movements. The auctions featured are *Magnificent Tiffany: Including Property from the Estate of Jeanne Laverne Dailey*, at 10am (separate press release available), and *Important 20th Century Decorative Art & Design* at 2pm. With more than 300 lots offered for the combined sales, the auctions include iconic works by the category's most distinguished creators, and are expected to achieve upwards of \$7 million.

The sale features a strong selection of Art Deco works and leading the group are the extraordinarily elegant wall panels by **Jean Dunand** (1877-1942) designed for the breakfast room at Templeton Crocker's San Francisco apartment in 1929 (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). The first large, luxurious apartment fully executed in the modern manner in the United States, it was considered by many to be one of the most important interiors of the Art Deco period, and *Vogue* magazine, in 1929, declared it "perhaps the most beautiful apartment in the world."

Templeton Crocker, a grandson of the founder of the Union Pacific Railroad and heir to the company's fortune, traveled to Paris in 1928 to meet the most sophisticated designers of the day, among them the foremost exponents of the Art Deco style:

Jean-Michel Frank, Pierre Legrain and Jean Dunand. Crocker commissioned approximately 400 objects, all fabricated in Paris and delivered to San Francisco about a year later.



Detail of panel by Jean Dunand



Templeton Crocker's Breakfast Room
by Jean Dunand, 1929

Jean Dunand was charged with decorating three rooms; the bedroom (the furniture for which is now in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art), the dining room, and also the breakfast room. Dunand covered the walls of the octagonal breakfast room with exquisite black lacquered panels embellished with effervescent bubbles and shimmering

multi-hued Japanese tropical fish all gliding in a radiant silver light glistening down upon them from the surface of the water above. With the consummate lacquer work for which he is renowned and the textural, tonal and artistic eminence of these panels, the ethereal breakfast room is certainly one of Dunand's masterworks.

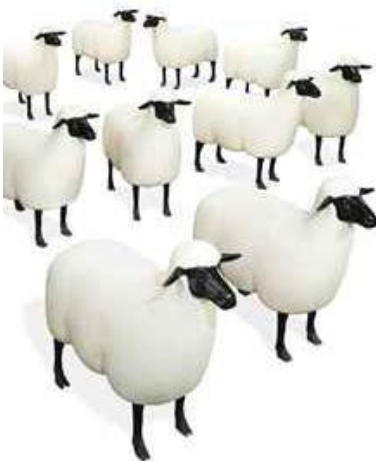
A newly discovered pair of red-lacquered wood divan blocks made in 1923 by **Eileen Gray** (1879-1976) remains a timeless synthesis of elegant line and immense practicality (pictured right, estimate: \$150,000-200,000). Only one surviving example has been recorded, and of the blocks, one maintains two hinged compartments, the other with a single covered compartment.



Works by **Alberto Giacometti** (1901-1966) offered for sale include a pair of *Coiffure* plaster table lamps designed for Jean-Michel Frank (pictured left, sold separately, each estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and a pair of *Osselet* patinated bronze floor lamps, circa 1939 (sold separately, each estimate: \$80,000-120,000).

Several lots from **Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann** (1879-1933) epitomizing the timeless glamor of French Art Deco are offered, including a Macassar

ebony center table, 1932 (pictured right, estimate: \$200,000-300,000) and *Bouillotte*, a silvered-bronze table lamp, circa 1920 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).



Leading the modern design section of the sale are three lots by **François-Xavier Lalanne** (1927-2008) which include *Mouton de Pierre*, a group of ten painted epoxy stone and patinated bronze sheep, designed circa 1979, from the Tateshina Open Air Museum, Japan (pictured left, estimate: \$600,000-900,000), *Oiseau de Jardin III A* a patinated bronze bird, 2004 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) and 'Brebis' an epoxy stone and patinated bronze lamb from the series *Nouveaux Moutons*, 1997 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).

A strong Italian group of lots is led by an illuminated etched glass mirror, circa 1958, by **Max Ingrand** (1908-1969) for Fontana Arte (pictured right, estimate:

\$30,000-50,000) and a pair of pearwood and brass wall-mounted cabinets, circa 1953, by **Gio Ponti** (1891-1979) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).



A selection of French art glass with examples of marquetry-sur-verre vases by **Emile Galle** (1846-1904) are offered, including a *Crocus* vase, circa 1900 (pictured right, estimate: \$20,000-30,000) and vase with applied handles, circa 1900 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).



Among a grouping of seven bronze and ivory figures are *Starfish*, a cold-painted parcel-gilt-bronze and ivory figure, circa 1930, and *Astra*, a gilt and cold-painted bronze and ivory figure, circa 1928, by **Demetrios Chiparus** (1886-1947) (each estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

Public Exhibition: December 10-16

Auctions: December 17, 2011

Magnificent Tiffany: Including Property from the Estate of Jeanne Laverne Dailey ~ 10am

Important 20th Century Decorative Art & Design ~ 2pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totaled £2.0 billion/\$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

Images available on request

###