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MICHAEL INCHBALD

A LEGACY OF DESIGN

Christie's London, 22 January 2014

Multi-Award Winning, Internationally Acclaimed Designer

At the Forefront of Interior Design

Designer of the QE2's First-Class Saloon the *Queen's Room*, hailed

'The Most Successful Marine Interior Ever Conceived'



"I believe the more you design for the future, the more you should know about the past. You've got to have a feeling for the great heritage of civilisation. Surrounding yourself with beautiful things gives you a standard."

Michael Inchbald

London – Christie's is proud to announce the sale of *Michael Inchbald: A Legacy of Design*, which will be offered in London on 22 January 2014. This auction provides discerning international collectors with a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire exemplary works of art from the personal world of this legendary designer. Comprising approximately 250 lots, Michael Inchbald's fascinating collection is led by a strong array of important Antiquities, Clocks, Furniture, Old Master Paintings, Sculpture and Silver and also includes fine Arms & Armour,

Books, Chinese Porcelain, Old Master & British Drawings and Watercolours, 19th century Furniture, European Porcelain and Travel Science & Natural History. With estimates ranging from £500 to £150,000 the sale is expected to realise in the region of £1.2 million.

A passionate connoisseur, Michael Inchbald (1920 – 2013) showed signs of his interest in architecture and interior design very early in life, winning a drawing competition intended for teenagers in the Daily Telegraph at the age of just nine. At his family home in Halebourne, Surrey, he would re-design entire rooms and wait to see if his father noticed when he arrived home from work. Michael went on to study at the Architectural Association, during which time he lived with his uncle, the horologist Courtenay Ilbert, at Stanley House, Chelsea, London. Early on, his ingeniously decorated small two-room apartment within the house was featured in *Ideal Home Magazine* and *House and Garden Magazine*. Making his mark in contemporary design, he won prizes for the design of oil heaters and a safety ashtray in the 1946 exhibition *The Shape of Things to Come*, also taking part in the *Britain Can Make It* exhibition the same year. In 1955, his wicker ‘Mambo’ chair won the National Design



prize and was later exhibited in the 1957 *Milan Triennale*. Michael inherited Stanley House in 1956, going on to set up his design business in the lower floors and stylishly updating the living quarters to combine, as Tim Knox, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, notes “his interest in contemporary design and new materials, with a fearless sense of colour and a taste for theatrical display.” Executed between 1957 and 1959, the interiors of Stanley House cemented his reputation as young designer who could seamlessly fuse the neoclassical with the modern. It is these interiors which are considered to be Michael Inchbald’s ultimate legacy, even including what is believed to be the first modern solarium in any London house (*illustrated left*).

SCULPTURE

The most valuable lot in the sale is a pair of carved marble busts of Augustus and Faustina the Younger after the Antique, Roman, 17th century (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated right*). They were formerly part of the Collection of the 9th Duke of Roxburghe at 2 Carlton House Terrace, London. Further sculpture highlights include a carved marble bust of the 1st Earl Stanhope, which is attributed to Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), *circa* 1730 (estimate: £40,000-60,000)



ANTIQUITIES



A strong selection of Antiquities feature in the collection including a Roman torso of Hercules, *circa* 1st-2nd century A.D. (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*) and an Egyptian limestone head from a sarcophagus lid, dating from the Late period to Ptolemaic period, *circa* 4th-3rd century B.C. (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated right*), both of which were acquired by Michael Inchbald in the 1960s from Spink, London.



CLOCKS



Michael's uncle, Courtenay Ilbert, formed the great horological collection, 'The Ilbert Collection', which is now in the British Museum and is said to be the finest ever formed. Highlights from his private collection which remained at Stanley House and are now to be offered include a handsome Regency mahogany and brass inlaid eight-day longcase regulator, Vulliamy, London, *circa* 1820 (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*) and a remarkable Augsburg gilt-metal and parquetry automaton lion clock, *circa* 1620, which has moving eyes and opens its mouth, as if to roar, on the hour (estimate: £40,000- 60,000, *illustrated right*).



FURNITURE



Furniture highlights are led by a pair of Empire ormolu, patinated bronze and black fossil marble six-light candelabra, which are attributed to Pierre-Philippe Thomire, *circa* 1802 (estimate: £70,000-100,000, *illustrated as a pair above right and in-situ above centre*) and a pair of Regency patinated bronze tripod tables, *circa* 1810 (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated as a pair above left and in-situ above centre*).

OLD MASTER PAINTINGS



*Portrait of Edward Courtenay, 1st Earl of Devon (1523-1556), half-length, in a black jerkin tied by points and a ruff, leaning on a stone ledge, ruins beyond, by the English School, circa 1555, has an identifying inscription 'E. Cortenay Comes Deuonie' in the lower right, leads the Old Master Paintings to be offered (estimate: £60,000-80,000, illustrated left). A further notable lot is Circle of Jean-Marc Nattier (Paris 1685-1766), *Portrait of Louis Jean Marie de Bourbon, Duke of Penthièvre (1725-1793), full-length, in a breastplate with the sash of the Order of Saint Esprit and the badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece, holding a marshal's baton with the fleur-de-lys, standing by his velvet furlined mantle and plumed helmet, in a rocky coastal landscape (estimate: £20,000-**

30,000, illustrated right).



SILVER



The fine silver which is presented in the sale includes an English George II silver epergne, with the mark of John Edwards, London, 1736 (estimate: £30,000-50,000, *illustrated left*). It is engraved with the arms of William Ilbert and his wife Bridget Courtenay of Powderham Castle, who married in 1736. Another

highlight is a German parcel-gilt silver cup and cover, Augsburg, *circa* 1620 (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated right*).



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Notes to Editors:

Michael Inchbald's success in the commercial sector include work as the interior designer for the Bank of America, the headquarters of Plessey and a series of outstanding interiors in luxury hotels such as: the *Ballroom* of the Berkeley Hotel, Knightsbridge and the *River Room* at the Savoy, London.

He designed the first-class saloon for the *QE2*, as well as designing interiors for the following liners: *Carpathia*, *Franconia* and the *Windsor Castle*.

In 1972 he was commissioned to refurbish the headquarters of the Crown Estate Commissioners at 13-15 Carlton House Terrace.

Michael Inchbald's private clients included the Duke of St Albans, the ducs de Liancourt and de la Rochefoucauld, and the Earls of Perth, Dartmouth and St Aldwyn, as well as contemporary celebrities - the film director, John Schlesinger, the author, Alistair Horne, and the banker, Henry Tiarks.

Pre-Sale Exhibition Viewing Times:

Thursday	16 January	9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Friday	17 January	9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Saturday	18 January	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Sunday	19 January	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Monday	20 January	9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Tuesday	21 January	9.00 am – 8.00 pm

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Images available on request

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