

**For Immediate Release**

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## **DYNAMIC AND SEDUCTIVE NORDIC ART AND DESIGN AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE**



**Nordic Art and Design**

**Tuesday, 26 June 2007 at 11.00 am**

**King Street, London** - Following the success of the inaugural sale of *Nordic Art and Design* held at Christie's London last year, the world's leading art business is pleased to announce the second sale in this new category which will be held on Tuesday, 26 June 2007. This dedicated sale will offer an outstanding selection of paintings, photographs, jewellery, furniture and glass from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Highlights include Vilhelm Hammershøi's *Det gamle klaver. Strandgade 30*, 1907 (estimate: £250,000-300,000) *illustrated above center*, a set of eight *Concrete Chairs* by Jonas Bohlin, 1981 (estimate: £50,000-70,000) *illustrated above right* and a pair of *Egg Chairs* by Arne Jacobsen, designed 1957, produced *circa* 1960 by Fritz Hansen (estimate: £15,000-20,000) *illustrated above right*. Comprising 121 lots, the sale is expected to realise in excess of £3 million.

“Crossing multiple disciplines and periods, this sale presents a fresh and innovative approach to art and design which is increasingly in strong international demand,” said Sophie Hawkins, Associate Director & Head of Sale. “Encapsulating the essence of the Nordic aesthetic, we are pleased to offer Vilhelm Hammershøi’s *Det gamle klaver. Strandgade 30*, one of his most important works to come to the international market.”



Vilhelm Hammershøi’s *Det gamle klaver. Strandgade 30*, 1907 (estimate: £250,000-300,000) *illustrated page 1*, is one of a series of works which the artist painted at his home in Copenhagen and which came to signify the epitome of quiet elegance and poetic reflection in Denmark at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further painting highlights include Asger Jorn’s vibrant *Le sorcier II*, 1957 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) *illustrated left*. A student of Fernand Léger, Jorn drew inspiration from popular Scandinavian culture, Surrealism and pre-historic art. This work was executed during a period of renewed intensity, in which he drew inspiration from the complex emotions of love and hate.

Norwegian artist Ludvig Karsten’s impressionistic *Interiör med to kvinnor* (*Interior with two women*), 1914 (estimate: £180,000-220,000) and the stunning early modernist work *Hortensia* (*Hydrangea*) 1915 (estimate: £200,000-300,000) *illustrated right*, by the celebrated Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck will also be offered. In addition, the international spotlight will shine on *Untitled*, 1994 (estimate: £12,000-18,000), a potent early work by Johan Scott, one of Sweden’s foremost contemporary artists working today.



Contemporary photographs from the increasingly sought after Helsinki school include the evocative work *Icy Prospects no.18*, 2007, by Jorma Puranen (estimate: £4,000-6,000) *illustrated right*. Other works from this exciting category include Ola Kolehmainen’s *Untitled no.13*, 2007 (estimate: £6,000-8,000) and *In its own*, 2006, (estimate: £7,000-10,000).

“Scandinavian design has had a profound influence upon international 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary design. Christie’s are at the forefront of this market having held the first dedicated Nordic Art and Design sale in London, which realised £3.9 million, in October 2006,” said Simon Andrews, Director of Christies Decorative Arts. “There is strong international demand for iconic pieces such as Jacobson’s pair of Egg

*Chairs, which is likely to attract keen interest at the sale on Wednesday, June 26. These chairs have the additional importance of being attributed to use in the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen, one of the most significant 1950s Nordic modernist buildings.”*

Further important furniture highlights include a sensuous red plywood *S Chair*, circa 1960, by Danish designer Verner Panton (1926-1998), *illustrated right* and a very rare early production *Model-41* lounge chair, 1932, by Alvar Aalto (estimate: £30,000-40,000), designed for the Paimio Sanitorium, Turku. Reflecting the enthusiasm for Aalto’s designs, his work was recently the subject of an exhibition at the Barbican. The sleek elegance of these pieces make them the ultimate addition to the most stylish interiors, and would sit effortlessly underneath a contemporary artwork or sculpture.



A superb array of glass includes Timo Sarpenava’s *Lancel-art-piece*, 1952 (estimate: £12,000-15,000). Sarpenava, who died in 2006, was one of the great Finnish industrial designers and the recipient of numerous international awards after a long and successful career. This sale will acknowledge his important contribution to 20<sup>th</sup> century design by offering a select group of objects. Other examples of Nordic glass include a rare carved bowl by Edward Hald, 1920 (estimate: £30,000-40,000) which shows the strong stylistic influences of his tutor Henri Matisse, and a seductive set of four Kaj Frank *Prisma Vases*, 1960 (estimate: £3,500-4,500) *illustrated left*.

Jewellery highlights include an exceptional collar and pendant by Swedish designer Torun Bülow-Hube, circa 1955 (estimate: £4,000-5,000). Torun moved to the South of France in the late 1950s and was part of a group of avant-garde artists including Pablo Picasso and musicians such as Billy Holiday, for whom she designed jewellery. Other pieces include a pendant and bracelet by Swedish designer Wiwen Nilsson, purchased at the 1939 New York World Fair (estimate: £5,000-8,000); a large, space-age inspired silver moon pendant by Tapio Wirkkila, circa 1970 (estimate: £3,000-4,000) and a jewellery suite comprising a ring and two bracelets, 1974, by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century Finnish designer Taisto Palonen (estimate: £2,000-3,000), which feature Finnish Greenstone.



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A selection of images is available on request

**Notes to Editors:**

**Auction: Tuesday, 26 June 2007 at 11.00 am**

**Public Viewing:** Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT

Friday 22 June: By appointment  
Saturday 23 June: 12 noon - 5.00pm  
Sunday 24 June: 12 noon - 5.00pm  
Monday 25 June: 9.00am - 4.30pm

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