

For Immediate Release

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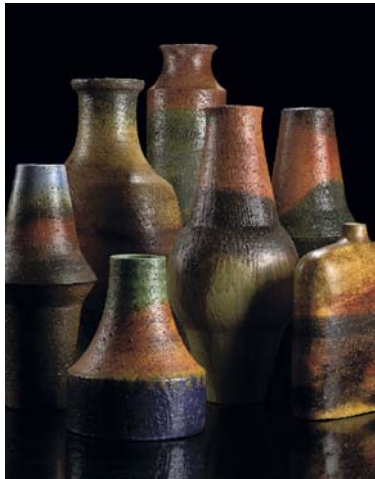
A CELEBRATION OF 20TH CENTURY DECORATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN OCTOBER

Important 20th Century Decorative Arts and Design

Thursday, 26 October 2006 at 2pm

King Street, London – Christie's London sale of **Important 20th Century Decorative Arts and Design** on 26 October 2006 celebrates the craftsmanship of Italian design with a selection of unique handcrafted works by two of Italy's foremost creators, Marcello Fantoni and Paolo De Poli. The sale of 180 lots spans all aspects of 20th century design and form, from Arts & Crafts furniture through to 1980s silver tea sets by Alessi; estimates range from £3,000 to over £15,000.

Stylish 20th Century Italian Design



Born in 1915 in Florence, Marcello Fantoni remains creative today, 70 years after founding his first studio. Examples of his work can be found in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Spanning from the late 1940s to early 1970s, the collection of 14 lots offered in the sale demonstrate his unparalleled contribution to contemporary ceramics. Included within the selection is a decorative group of brightly glazed earthenware ceramics including vases, bowls and sculptures with estimates ranging from £2,000 to £10,000.

Paolo De Poli (1905-1996) began his career in the art of enamel work in 1933 and over the next fifty years continued to explore the beauty of enamel combined with functionality. Working closely with some of Italy's foremost designers such as Gio Ponti, Paolo produced an extraordinary selection of innovative works, original designs and unique pieces of which eight appear in Christie's auction for the first time. Leading the selection is a unique hand hammered copper dish, 1951 that illustrates the strongly expressionist artistic training of this highly individual creator (estimate: £15,000-25,000).

With the market for Gio Ponti currently at a strong level and the outstanding results achieved for the Gio Ponti collection offered in the March sale of Important 20th Century Decorative Arts and Design, Christie's is pleased to offer a superb selection of Gio Ponti items including a bureau bookcase, *circa* 1955 (estimate: £15,000-20,000). Post-Modernist Italy is represented by a striking

silver tea set of architectural form, designed by Michael Graves for Alessi in 1980 (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

Timeless British Arts and Crafts

Amongst the selection of British decorative arts and design is a collection of 17 architectural drawings from 1905 by prominent Arts & Crafts Movement architect and designer, Charles Francis Annesley Voysey (1857-1941) (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Voysey produced seven series of drawings of The White Horse Inn, Stetchworth in Suffolk for the Earl of Ellesmere before the plans were finally agreed upon. The building still stands and became a grade II listed property on 25 April 1984.



A rare pair of wrought and cast iron andirons designed by Thomas Jeckyll in 1859 (1827-1881), the leading designer of Barnard, Bishop & Barnard, the Norwich based brass and iron foundry, will also be offered (estimate: £15,000-20,000) (pictured left). Jeckyll trained as an architect, but is best known for his metalwork designs for gates, railings, garden benches, seats and fire grates and tools. A similar pair of andirons are displayed in the Peacock Room in the Freer Gallery, Washington, where the room Jeckyll designed for Frederick Leyland is housed. Jeckyll had invited Whistler to contribute to the room but Whistler instead obscured a large proportion of the original scheme with various alterations.

Jeckyll's early death at fifty-four was brought about by a mental breakdown. He became ill in 1877 and died in Norwich Asylum in 1881.

A timeless selection of household furniture by Edward Barnsley (1900-1987) which was commissioned by Dimitri Comino following a move from London to Gerrard's Cross will also be offered. Edward Barnsley was the son of Sidney Barnsley, who worked with Ernest Gimson and together they became known as leading Cotswold furniture makers. Barnsley initially worked in the tradition of his father, but during the 1930s began to design along more modernist lines. After the Second World War, he was strongly influenced by eighteenth century furniture design and as a result of wood shortages he employed more exotic woods, such as black bean and padauk, with inlays to enliven them. The selection offered in the sale reflects Barnsley's great emphasis on craftsmanship; estimates range from £500 to £3,000.

Stylish French Decorative Arts & Design

Amongst the strong selection of French glassware, furniture and lighting includes a number of pieces of glassware by Emile Gallé, one of the leading French exponents of the Art Nouveau style. Amongst the selection is an exceptionally rare Gallé *Lily of the Valley* vase from circa 1898-1900 of which only two examples of this design are believed to exist (estimate: £60,000-80,000). Also included is an experimental vase *Verre églomisé* from circa 1900 by Gallé which is internally decorated in shades of deep brown, white, peach and pink (estimate: £30,000-40,000). This vase

forms part of a small series of which were inspired by the plant *Salicornia Strictia*, or Glasswort as it is most commonly known. These rare vases also inspired important literature of the time. The swirling trapped white inclusions in the *verre églomisé* are reminiscent of falling snow flakes as described by seminal writer Marcel Proust, “*Soon winter, and at the corner of the window pane, as on a piece of glass by Gallé, a hardened streak of snow.*”

French Art Nouveau architect and furniture designer, Hector Guimard (1867-1942) is perhaps best known for the major landmarks he created including the entrance gates to the Métro (subway) stations in Paris. Included within the sale is a selection of his designs including a long arm Métro lantern from *circa* 1900 which was produced for the Fonderies de Saint-Dizier (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and a pair of corner display cabinets formerly from the dining-room of Maison Hector Guimard (estimate: £50,000-70,000). Also included in the sale are two rare and highly sought-after 1920s desk lamps by Jacques Le Chevallier (pictured right), one of the foremost lighting designers of the 1920s and 30s (estimates range from £18,000 to £30,000).



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Images available on request
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Notes for Editors:

Public Viewing:

From Sunday, 22 October 2006 at Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT
Tel: 020 7839 9060 www.christies.com

Sale:

Thursday, 26 October 2006 at 2pm

Christie's is the worldwide leader in the 20th Century Decorative Art and Design market. With regular sales in New York, Paris, London, and Amsterdam, the 20th Century Decorative Art and Design Department sells a range of property including furniture, sculpture, ceramics, metalworks, and lighting from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, Modernist and Contemporary movements.