

CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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CHRISTIE'S FEATURES AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ART DECO MASTERPIECES

17 DECEMBER, NEW YORK



ARMAND ALBERT RATEAU (1882–1938)
A PAIR OF 'COL DE CYGNE' APPLIQUES, CIRCA 1920
gilt-bronze, silk cord · each 14 1/2 (36.8 cm.) high
Estimate: US\$300,000–400,000

New York – Christie's announces a single-owner sale of Art Deco masterpieces on December 17 in New York. This sale will be among a series of four design sales held on December 17 and 18. *An Important Private Collection of Art Deco Masterpieces* will include works by the artists universally acknowledged as the great tastemakers of their day, led by **Jean Dunand**, **Eugène Printz**, **Albert-Armand Rateau**, **Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann**, **Katsu Hamanaka** and **Diego Giacometti**. Comprised of 44 lots, the full formal repertoire of Art Deco is represented, from the highly stylized figural, animal and plant motifs of Rateau to the geometric modernism of Dunand or the clean-lined silhouettes of Printz. Included in this exquisite tribute to French creativity in the inter-war years are examples of the fine craftsmanship associated with this high point of the applied arts, notably fine lacquer work, dinanderie, cabinet-making, and bronze casting. Each work in this focused collection has been selected with great rigor as regards the quality, condition and provenance of each work. Featuring museum quality objects that are fresh to the market, the sale is expected to appeal to collectors of rare masterworks.



**EUGÈNE PRINTZ (1889-1948) AND
JEAN DUNAND (1877-1942)**

A SIDEBOARD, CIRCA 1937

palmwood with two five-panel
dinanderie folding doors by Jean
Dunand, the feet decorated with
oxidized brass

36 1/2 (92.7 cm.) high, 78 3/4 in. (200
cm.) wide, 17 1/2 in. (43.8 cm.) deep
Estimate: US\$700,000–1,000,000

Provenance: Personal collection of
Eugène Printz

Leading the collection is a masterpiece sideboard created circa 1937, by Eugène Printz and Jean Dunand (estimate: US\$700,000–1,000,000), originally in the personal collection of Eugène Printz. Perfect artistry and faultless technique characterize every aspect of this exceptional example of French Art Deco. The work is the result of a collaboration between two significant and distinct talents, Eugène Printz and Jean Dunand, both of whom rank among the foremost creators associated with this style. Printz made his mark as a furniture designer and his strength, as well evidenced in this piece, was in the alliance of simple, perfectly balanced forms and meticulous execution. The long but relatively shallow rectangular cabinet seems to float above the ground on its scrolling feet and is at once impressive and elegant. The distinctive open-grain palm wood is a material very much favored by Printz. The inlaid and patinated metal facade is the work of Jean Dunand, who in the 1920s established his reputation as the foremost *dinandier*, or worker in non-precious metals, of his era.

The pair of 'Col de Cygne' sconces by Armand-Albert Rateau are an exceptionally rare and fine example of the artist's craftsmanship and the model has never before been seen on the auction market. The poetic use of the swan motif and the highly sophisticated execution epitomize the creativity and splendor of Rateau's work in the Art Deco period.

New York Design Sale Schedule:

Masterworks of Design

17 December 2015, 10am

*Masterpieces of 20th Century Decorative Art: An Important
New York Private Collection*

17 December 2015, immediately follows 10am sale

*An Important Private Collection of Art Deco Masterpieces
Design*

17 December 2015, 2pm

18 December 2015, 10am & 2pm

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, New Delhi, Mumbai and Dubai.

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

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Images available on request

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