

CHRISTIE'S

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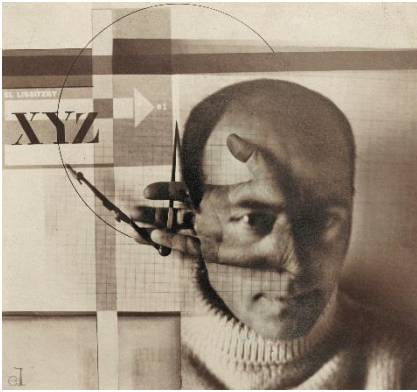
CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS THE SECOND EDITION OF [MASTERPIECES OF DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY](#)

A CURATED SALE FEATURING WORKS BY LEADING ARTISTS
OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES



Highlights illustrated above include El Lissitzky's Russian avant-garde masterpiece
The Constructor, (estimate: £800,000 – £1,200,000) and Joris Laarman's Bone Chair (estimate: £400,000-600,000)

London – As part of its season of curated sales in London this March, Christie's will offer the second edition of [Masterpieces of Design and Photography](#), which will follow the Post-War and Contemporary Evening sale in London on 6 March. Building on the success of the first edition of this sale in 2017, this season will present collectors and design enthusiasts with exceptional works of 20th and 21st centuries photography and design. Highlights range from El Lissitzky's iconic self-portrait from 1924, *The Constructor*, (estimate: £800,000 – £1,200,000, *illustrated above*) to Italian mid-century rarities by Gio Ponti and Carlo Mollino. Further masterworks by Edward Weston, Diane Arbus, Bernd & Hilla Becher and Wolfgang Tillmans are presented alongside a key mid-century works by Charlotte Perriand, Marc du Plantier, Poul Henningsen and Carlo Scarpa, through to contemporary works by the leading designers of today, including two iconic aluminium works by Joris Laarman and Marc Newson. On view at Christie's, King Street from 2-6 March.



El Lissitzky's *Self-Portrait ('The Constructor')* exemplifies the ideologies of the Russian avant-garde, the Bauhaus, Dadaism, modernism and the Hanover Secession. It transcends photography as a medium and is a powerful symbol of the artistic, political and cultural changes that upended the world in the 1920s. Few vintage prints of this image are recorded; the present work is, to date, the largest hitherto recorded early print of this image. The sale also features *Shell (Nautilus)* by Edward Weston from 1927 (estimate: £500,000 - £700,000,



illustrated right) which perfectly embodies the principles of Modernism and is among one of the most celebrated from the series. Noteworthy for being one of the earliest prints of this image, it also carries rare and important provenance, coming directly from the family of Mr. and Mrs. Lester and Jean Roy Carter of San Francisco. The Carters were dear friends to Edward Weston and are mentioned throughout the artist's published Daybooks.



Comprising fifteen individual photographs taken over a twenty-one year period, the present work stems from Bernd and Hilla Becher's series of *Fördertürme*, or Winding Towers (estimate: £150,000–200,000, *illustrated left*). Shot in a variety of locations throughout Belgium and France, it depicts metal structures designed to carry equipment to underground mine shafts. This work is a prime

example of the documentary study of industrial architecture, which consumed the Bechers artistic careers and ultimately changed the course of post-war art history. The sale also includes *Yellow Sea*, by Hiroshi Sugimoto (estimated: £200,000 - £300,000, *illustrated right*). The present lot is an excellent example of the artists renowned seascape series, which comes from The Constantiner Collection in New York.



Highlights of the Design section include an important early 'En Forme' desk by Charlotte Perriand (£300,000 - £500,000, *illustrated left*) and Marc du Plantier's rare and important



'Lotus' console (estimate: £200,000 –£250,000, *illustrated right*). Perriand and Du Plantier were two of the leading French decorator/designers of the 20th century. Of equal rarity, the 1949 bureau 'En Forme' is an early example of Charlotte Perriand's uniquely sensitive personality and was produced during the immediate post-war period of reconstruction, while Du Plantier's 1939 console is the only known remaining example of a series of 5 works produced, and now appears at auction for the first time.

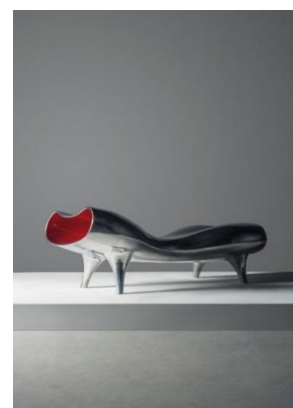
The auction also presents a selection of design by two of the leading representatives of the Italian mid-century: Gio Ponti and Carlo Mollino. Ponti's 1949 pair of rare wingback armchairs (estimate: £100,000 - £150,000, *illustrated below left*) epitomises the fluid, natural lines that inaugurated a new chapter in Italian post-war design.



Carlo Mollino's unique 1944 Albonico cabinet offers an equally important confluence of symbolisms (estimate: £150,000 – £200,000 *illustrated above right*). The Renaissance-style rusticated drawers are an enduring feature of his 1930s architecture, and this combined with the application of an archaic lithography panel, which act almost as a regular trompe l'oeil, make the object defy the aesthetic preconceptions of his time. Never previously exhibited, it is offered to the international auction market for the first time, by the family of the original commissioner.



Another artist who has advanced the dialogue of contemporary furniture design, is Joris Laarman. The Bone Chair, (estimate: £400,000 - £600,000 – *illustrated left*) is the first furniture type the designer digitally generated to simulate bones structure and its distinctive configuration is a result of giving the digital tool specific requirements, such as seat surface and three points for releasing weight pressure on the floor, creating a formula which develops its structure with optimal efficiency, resulting in a highly sophisticated organic shape. Laarman was recently the subject of a major retrospective at New York's Cooper Hewitt Museum.



The Orgone Stretch Lounge by Marc Newson (estimate: £300,000 - £500,000, *illustrated right*) refined the characteristic hourglass form of Newson's earlier creations, the Lockheed Lounge and the Pod Cabinet of 1985-1989. The present lot, the second artist's proof from the edition of six, must be appreciated as one of the designer's most resolved creations – translating references that embrace the pragmatic and the conceptual, to deliver through hand-craft a work of exceptional beauty.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request