

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 26 NOVEMBER 2018

## DECEMBER DESIGN



**JEAN ROYÈRE (1902-1981)**  
*'Ours Polaire' Armchair, circa 1958*  
sapele, velvet upholstery  
\$180,000 – 220,000



**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT (1867-1959)**  
*Two Important Chairs from the Ward W. Willits House, Highland Park, Illinois, circa 1902*  
executed by John W. Ayers, Co.  
stained white oak, fabric upholstery  
\$200,000 – 300,000 each pair



**ADOLF LOOS (1870-1933)**  
*Rare Longcase Clock, circa 1900*  
executed by Johannes Heeg, Vienna  
copper, painted copper, brass, glass  
\$150,000 – 200,000

**New York** –Christie's New York is delighted to announce its [December Design Sale](#) in New York on 13 December 2019 celebrating the creative visions of some of the world's most important designers and architects of the past century. Nearly 200 selected lots will be exhibited, featuring a group of early 20th century Austrian and French Art Deco works, pieces from The Collection of Alexander Kaplen and from an edited New York collection of mid-century French and American design.

The season is highlighted by the spectacular rediscovery of two pairs of *Important Chairs from the Ward W. Willits House, Highland Park, Illinois, circa 1902* by **Frank Lloyd Wright** (estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000 each pair). The four chairs offered as pairs are museum-quality examples, have changed hands only once before, and have never been offered at auction. The linear geometry of these important and exceedingly rare Willits chairs created a seminal moment in design and acted as a catalyst for change in 20<sup>th</sup> century geometric abstraction and modernism influencing the Bauhaus and De Stijl movements, among others. The present examples retain their original finish and have not been restored. Others from the set are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the V&A, the St. Louis Art Museum, High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and LACMA.

**Michael Jefferson, International Specialist, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Design**, explained: "Aside from their pedigree as important design in the canon, these examples are the most distilled and purely geometric of the chairs that Wright was developing. These were the chairs that formed the bedrock for all subsequent styles and phases of modernism over the next century. Discoveries of this kind rarely ever come to the auction market."

Other highlights include iconic works by important designers such as the "Ours Polaire" armchair, circa 1950 by **Jean Royère** (estimate: \$180,000 – 220,000), *A Tall Case Clock, circa 1905* by **Adolf Loos** (estimate: \$150,000 – 200,000), a *Monumental Chandelier, circa 1950* by **Paavo Tynell** (estimate: \$150,000 – 200,000), and two whimsical 'Jaguar' Benches, 1992 by **Judy Kensley McKie** (estimate: \$150,000 – 200,000). Highlights from **The Alexander Kaplen Collection** include modernist masterpieces by **Jean Prouvé**, *'Direction' Swivel Chair, model no. 353, circa 1951* (estimate: \$50,000 – 70,000) and *'Banquette', model no. 356, circa 1954* (estimate: \$50,000 – 70,000).

**Daphne Riou, Head of Department, Design**, said, “Christie’s is honored to offer several important private collections this season, such as *The Clarke Collection of Rietveld and Judd furniture*, the *Collection of Modernist Masterpieces from Alexander Kaplen* as well as a private collection of important works from the *Wiener Werkstätte* and *English modernism*. These pieces have been out of public view for decades and we are very excited to present them to the marketplace.”

**HIGHLIGHTS | DESIGN | VARIOUS OWNER SALE | 13 DECEMBER 2019 | 2 PM**



**PAAVO TYNELL (1890-1973)**

*Monumental Chandelier, circa 1950*

brass, perforated brass, glass

102 in. (259 cm) drop; 132 in. (335.2 cm) diameter

\$150,000 – 200,000



**KOLOMAN MOSER (1868-1918)**

*Rare Mantel Clock, model no. S 771, 1907-1908*

executed by Alfred Mayer at the Wiener Werkstätte,

Austria

ebony, partially engraved and gold painted colored

glass, silver, clear

glass

\$150,000 – 250,000



**TIFFANY STUDIOS**

*'Peony' Floor Lamp, circa 1910*

leaded glass, patinated bronze

\$120,000 – 180,000



**JUDY KENSLEY MCKIE (B. 1944)**

*Two 'Jaguar' Benches, 1992*

numbers 1 and 2 from the edition of 12 plus 4 artist's proofs

patinated bronze

\$150,000 – 250,000



**CHRISTOPHER DRESSER (1834-1904)**

*Rare and Important Teapot, circa 1879*

manufactured by James Dixon & Sons, Sheffield,

Yorkshire, England

electroplated metal, ebonized wood

\$80,000 – 120,000

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ALEXANDER KAPLEN COLLECTION



JEAN PROUVÉ (1901-1984)  
*'Direction' Swivel Chair, model no. 353, circa 1951*  
manufactured by Les Ateliers Jean Prouvé,  
painted steel, diamond point sheet aluminum, original  
leather  
upholstery, oak  
\$50,000 – 70,000



FRANCO CAMPO (B. 1926) AND CARLO  
GRAFFI (1925-1985)  
*Unique Games Table, from Casa M.T., Turin, 1951*  
executed by Apelli & Varesio, Turin, Italy  
maple-veneered plywood, cherry wood, ebonized  
wood, brass, steel,  
original tempered glass  
\$50,000 – 70,000

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLARKE COLLECTION



GERRIT THOMAS RIETVELD (1888-1964)  
*'Hogestoel' Chair, 1960*  
painted wenge  
\$30,000 – 50,000



GERRIT THOMAS RIETVELD (1888-1964)  
*'Berlin' Chair, designed 1923*  
painted elm, painted beech  
\$20,000 – 30,000

**PRESS CONTACT:** Andrew Nodell | 212 636 2680 | [ANodell@christies.com](mailto:ANodell@christies.com)

**Public Exhibition:**

Fri 6 Dec 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Sat 7 Dec 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sun 8 Dec 1:00 pm - 5.00 pm  
Mon 9 Dec 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Tues 10 Dec 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Wed 11 Dec 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Thurs 12 Dec 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

**Auction:**

*DESIGN*  
Fri 13 December 2019  
at 2:00 pm

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 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.*

###

*Images available on request*

**FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:**

