Scandinavian Design
PAAVO TYNELL AND ALVAR
AALTO’S FINLAND
Auction on 29th May 2018 at 6pm in Paris

Exhibition
Friday 25th to Monday 28th 2018
7, Rond-Point des Champs-Elysées
75008 Paris
Paris – On 29th May, Artcurial will showcase two crucial figures in Finnish design during the Scandinavian Design auction: Paavo Tynell and Alvar Aalto. The auction will also stage an important set of furniture from Danish creator Poul Kjærholm.

While Alvar Aalto will be greatly present during the retrospective organised by the Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine de Paris, Artcurial will present an extremely rare piece at auction: a wood vase mould (model 9473) created by the designer and created by the Karhula-littala glass manufacturer. It carries an estimate of between €30,000 and €50,000 ($37,000 – 62,000).

Another exceptional piece, a luminary created by the Finnish master of light, Paavo Tynell: *Snowball* suspension, circa 1950 (estimate: €60,000 – 80,000 / $75,000 – 100,000). It was with a similar piece, sold last May for €238,400 / $252,704 including fees that Artcurial established the world record for the artist. His poetic creations are highly sought after and prized by international collectors.

Representing Denmark, another bastion Scandinavian design, a set of twelve nickel steel chairs by Poul Kjærholm will delight collectors. (estimate €40,000 – 60,000 / $50,000- 75,000).
Glass magic: Alvar Aalto’s vase mould for Karhula-Iittala

In the fall of 1936, glassware manufacturer Karhula-Iittala launches a competition of tableware and glass objects for the Universal Exhibition of Paris of 1937. Alvar Aalto won first prize with his bold project, composed of five free form vases with undulating contours, symbolizing Finnish nature. He completes this group by the creation of a series of twelve different models. Aalto then begins a project in close collaboration with the glassware manufacturer to develop his system of blown glass vases using wood moulds, as demonstrated with the presented example.

At this time, the manufacture of Alvar Aalto’s vases proves difficult and expensive by their complex form and asymmetric aspect of the drawing. In order to obtain the desired rendering, the moulds are made out of alder wood which is easily carved. The result is striking and puts forward the craftsmanship of the vase, while revealing the soft organic sculpture which will give its form to the molten glass paste.

The mould presented appears to be the oldest of the three large size copies known to this period, the other two models have been presented at exhibitions on the work of Alvar Aalto and on Karhula glassware in Finnish museums, as well as currently in the Cité de l’architecture in Paris. Two other smaller versions are referenced at the Maas Museum in Sydney and at the Alvar Aalto Museum in Jyväskylä. An exceptional testament to the artist’s genius, this copy is a symbol of Finnish artistic creation.

Also from Alvar Aalto, a curved birch wood and black lacquer set of shelves dating from 1933 carries and estimate of €6,000 – 8,000 / $7,500 – 9,900.

Paavo Tynell, the man who lit up Finland

Paavo Tynell is the creator of the Taito Oy company, founded in 1918. The company has been recognized as one of the most competent authorities of Finland in the field of luminaire production, a recipient of many awards in particular during the 1929 Universal Exhibition in Barcelona. Many designers, such as Alvar Aalto will collaborate with the firm.

Paavo Tynell’s work is recognizable by the creation of pieces relating to nature, more often made of brass and bronze, giving the light a warm and golden glow. Combined with the opal glass, leather or rattan, Tynell demonstrates with dexterity his ability to stage the light as non-one else. It is this distinctiveness which today allows him to be considered as the master of Light in Finland.
One of his rare « Snowball » suspension liminairs will be presented in May carrying an estimate of €60,000 – 80,000 / $75,000 – 99,000. An impressive brass floor lamp will also be auctioned, estimate €20,000 – 30,000/ $25,000 – 37,000.

**Poul Kjærholm,**

**Danish tradition and industrial design**

Poul Kjærholm is the third creator represented by a wonderful selection of pieces, presented during the 29th May auction. The Danish designer, carpenter by trade, is accepted to the Royal Academy of Danish Beaux-Arts in 1952. There he studies foreign designs by creators such as Charles and Ray Eames, Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe, who all become great sources of inspiration. Steel, a material he uses as apparent structures, becomes his material of predilection and his hallmark.

When he was tenured as professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 1959, Palle Suenson, school Dean, orders a set of work furniture from him, presenting it to the cabinetmaker Rud Rasmussen for the build. The furniture named " Academy cabinet", presented at auction, is derived from this set (estimate: €40,000 – 60,000/ $49,000 – 75,000). His collaboration with Rud Rasmussen allows Poul Kjærholm to combine Danish tradition of woodworking with industrial design.

The following year, the designer begins a collaboration with merchant Ejvind Kold Christensen with whom he develops an architectural vision catered towards a new interior. Their partnership continues until his death in 1980.

He demonstrates that it is possible to transcend industrial production constraints and exploits the properties of steel which convey an aesthetic role to the various structural elements of the piece of furniture. He applies this method to the whole range of furniture from the day bed PK80 (estimate: €25,000 – 35,000/ $30,000 – 42,000) to the dining room chair PK9 (set of 12 chairs, estimate: €40,000 – 60,000/ $49,000 – 75,000 and a suite of 6 chairs, estimate: €10,000 – 15,000/ $12,000 – 18,000 $) or the famous chaise-longue PK24 (estimate: €8,000 –10,000/ $9,500 – 12,000). The set presented at auction represents the creative genius of the designer who then develops an architectural vision catering to a new interior.
ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, Artcurial, a multidisciplinary auction house based in Paris, reinforcing its leading position in the market of the international art in 2016. With principal sale venues in Paris and Monaco, the House totals 210.1 million euros in sales volume in 2016, or the double of its turnover in 5 years (+10% compared to 2015). It covers the whole spectrum of major specialties: Beaux-Arts to decorative arts, collector automobiles, jewellery, collector timepieces, fine wines and spirits...

Resolutely turned toward the international market, Artcurial asserts its network abroad with representation offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna as well as a presence in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and biannual exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial organised its first sale in Hong Kong and in Morocco.

HD visuals available upon request
Estimate in dollars for information purposes only
Catalogues available on line at www.artcurial.com

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