

ARTCURIAL

Press release



The 4th edition of Italian Design sales at Artcurial

Italian Design
Sale on 13 April 2021, in Paris

On 13 April, Artcurial will hold the 4th in its series of Italian Design sales. This edition, comprising over 160 lots, will include an area of the market new to France. Presented alongside the grand masters of Italian Design, featuring names such as Gio Ponti, Ico Parisi and Gino Sarfatti, will be a section on 1970s Design showcasing lesser-known designers.

PARIS – The Italian Design department at Artcurial will present its 4th sale on 13 April. Work by the grand masters of Italian Design, including Gio Ponti, Ico Parisi and Gino Sarfatti will feature alongside an exciting new section on 1970s Design with designers who are less well known. Names include Gaetano Pesce, Joe Colombo, Tobia Scarpa, Mario Ceroli, Superstudio and Enzo Mari, who died in 2020 and is the subject of a current exhibition at the Milan Triennale.

Ettore Sottsass will once again be in the spotlight with pieces that span his career and encompass different disciplines.

There will also be an opportunity to discover some modern masterpieces such as an enamel and glass coffee table, that resulted from the collaboration between Gio Ponti and Paolo De Poli (estimate : 10 000-15 000 €), as well as the pair of armchairs for the Settebello train by Gio Ponti (estimate: 24 000-28 000 €).

« I am delighted to present a stunning group of pieces by Superstudio, composed of three items of furniture «Quaderna» (meaning notebook, in reference to the lines), that played a fundamental part in the history of design. The Superstudio edition with green lines is rarely seen on the market.

Artcurial has a strong desire to promote this group whose radical ideas revolutionised architecture; hence the importance of the accompanying lithographs by the group that add to our understanding of this movement. »

- Justine Despretz,
Italian Design Consultant, Artcurial



Gaetano Pesce, Modular sofa 356 known as « Tramonto a New York » (sunset in New York)
Produced between 1983 and 1992
Est : 10 000 - 15 000 €



Carlo Mollino
Bunk beds
Created for the la Casa del Sole
in Cervinia, Italy
Estimate : 25 000 - 35 000 €

1970s Design in the spotlight

For the first time, the auction house will offer pieces by Superstudio, the important and radical architectural firm set up in 1966-67 in Florence, that advocated a new conceptual approach to architecture. Items of Quaderna furniture by Superstudio will be presented in the sale alongside their architectural drawings, demonstrating their radical idea of breaking with design norms by proposing standard models that could be applied to different areas and on different scales. Superstudio presented this project, which remains a cultural icon today, in the exhibition: *The New Domestic Landscape* at MOMA in 1972. In 2019, the FRAC Centre-Val de Loire hosted the exhibition «Superstudio : La vie après l'architecture». This was the first exhibition in France dedicated to Superstudio's work, and included all the group's major projects. In the photo, we see Superstudio's tall table given the name "Quaderna" for its motif taken from school notebooks and a rare lamp by Gianfranco Frattini mod.535, appearing on the market for just the second time.

Alongside these items will be a magnificent modular sofa called «Sunset in New York» in which the designer uses form and colour to suggest the horizon line of the city at sunset (est : 10 000 – 15 000 €).

An iconic piece by Carlo Mollino

An important highlight of the Artcurial sale on 13 April will be a pair of bunkbeds by Carlo Mollino. This item, designed for the Casa del Sole in Cervinia, Italy, is estimated to fetch between 25 000 and 35 000 €. The Casa del Sole in Cervinia represented the culmination of Mollino's research into alpine architecture. Built in 1948 to accommodate skiers, the building is organised into small, rational apartments. In 1953, having designed the building and its interior, Mollino turned his attention to creating the furniture which was manufactured by Ettore Canali. This was one of his most modernist projects. The mountainous environment and the intended use of this building led him to focus on the functional aspect of its design. The Casa del Sole is one of the only projects by Mollino in which the space comprises a series of elements making up a "housing unit".

The bed is composed of sections of rectangular wooden slats. The structure echoes, ideally and visually, the lines on the façade of the building, which in turn was inspired by traditional wooden houses in the region. Structural details of the bed, such as the folding night tables, enhance the functionality of its appearance. With an elegant and structural simplicity, this versatile piece could be used today, as a sofa or displayed as a decorative piece, and would fit into many different interiors, from a Parisian apartment to an alpine chalet.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Public viewing :
From Friday 9 to Monday 12 April 2021

Sale :
Tuesday 13 April 2021 - 19.00

7 Rond-Point
des Champs-Élysées
75008 Paris

PRESS MATERIAL

High resolution images
available on request

The complete catalogue is
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PRESS CONTACTS

Head of Press
Anne-Laure Guérin
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 86
alguerin@artcurial.com

Press assistant
Aurélia Adloff
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
aadloff@artcurial.com



About Artcurial

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house Artcurial confirmed its leading position on the international art market scene in 2020. With three sale venues in Paris, Monaco and Marrakech, the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 149,2 million euros in 2020.

Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields including Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Jewellery, Watches, Fine Wines and Spirits...

With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna.

In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

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