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Brilliant results for selected works by Fontana, Burri, Castellani and Boetti.

A very rare *Concetto Spaziale* by Lucio Fontana of the *Metalli* series sold at € 1,184,750.

Italian auction record for Mario Schifano.

World auction record for a design jewel.

Excellent prices for two Neo-metaphysical works by Giorgio De Chirico.

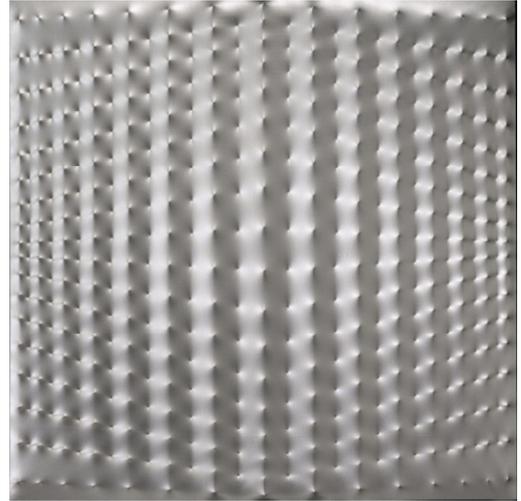


Concetto Spaziale by Lucio Fontana, lacerations and graffiti on brass, has more than doubled its pre-sale estimate. The work, dated 1964-65, after a few minutes competition, achieved the price of € 1,184,750 (ill. above).

This *Concetto Spaziale* fetched such a remarkable price thanks to its rarity: in fact Lucio Fontana realized only 9 pieces of the *Ottoni* series.

Propaganda, a 1962 beautiful Pop artwork by Mario Schifano, coming from a private collection, set the Italian auction record for the artist, reaching € 252,750.

Lucio Fontana realized in 1962-63 for one of his major collectors a gold bracelet - *Concetto Spaziale* - a unique piece (est. € 30,000-40,000), which quadrupled its high estimate marking a new world auction record for a jewel designed by an artist: it was sold at € 126,750.



Enrico Castellani – *Superficie Argento*, 1970
sold at € 672,750

Giorgio de Chirico, included in the catalogue with two *Manichini* from his Neo-metaphysical period, registered successful prices: lot 7, *Il Poeta Solitario* and lot 4, *Il Trovatore* were purchased for € 192,750 and € 264,750.

Raphaëlle Blanga, Director of Sotheby's Italy Modern and Contemporary Art department, commented: "*We are very satisfied by tonight's results, especially for the prices achieved by works of small dimensions but highly refined such as the two golden Fontana and the little silver Castellani, that collectors bought for more than their highest estimates.*"

The sculptures proposed in the sale gave very positive feedback, for example: Fontana (lot 8, *Arlecchino*, ceramic, 1953, est. € 50,000-70,000, sold at € 192,750), Melotti (lot 9, *Senza Titolo*, 1976, est. € 70,000-90,000, sold at € 162,750) and the 1968 *Semicolonna A*, bronze, by Arnaldo Pomodoro, which was sold at € 84,750.

All the works by international artists offered, especially those by Stella (lot 46), Albers (lot 27), Wesselmann (lot 50) and Christo (lot 47), were brilliantly sold.

Raphaëlle Blanga added: "*Moreover, we would like to underline the perfect balance between the Italian and the International clients active in the sale, who demonstrated with their purchases a careful research for the extreme rarity of the artworks selected.*"

