

# Sotheby's

Press release Paris

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## Sales of 'Design' and 'Diego Giacometti' Total almost €11 million



### Success for works from the Fifties and Sixties Triumph for Diego Giacometti at Sotheby's Paris 100% of lots sold 90% of the 27 lots exceeded their high estimates

**Paris, 17 May 2017** – The day opened with a Design sale offering an overview of decorative arts from 1900 to the present day, combining Art Nouveau and Art Deco masterpieces with contemporary design. This was followed by a 27-lot auction dedicated to Diego Giacometti, part of an on-going series of 'artist' sales introduced in 2015 and in the wake of auctions devoted to the Lalannes and Emile Gallé. With a total of almost €11 million, both sales far exceeded their high estimates.

**Florent Jeanniard, head of the Design department at Sotheby's France:** "The decision to represent numerous 20<sup>th</sup>-century movements in our Paris sales is clearly one that the market fully embraces. The enthusiastic response from collectors to the range of material consigned by our international team – in Paris, London and in New York – translated into strong results across the board."

**Cecile Verdier, Vice-President of Sotheby's France and co-worldwide Head of Design at Sotheby's, who conducted the Diego Giacometti auction:** "The success of the Diego Giacometti sale wonderfully expresses our joy of being able to bring to the market such a flawless group of pieces made by the artist. Collectors responded in kind to their exquisite beauty."

## Design

Artists from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were roundly acclaimed in this first sale featuring Design. It was led by **Philippe Hiquily's brass and glass dining room table, 1968**, which fetched the highest price. At **€283,500**, this piece, which came from the artist's family, largely exceeded its high estimate of €150,000 (lot 89). Meanwhile, **Charlotte Perriand's famous bookcase**, featuring a dynamic mix of off-white and black sections laid out between geometric lines, c. 1950-1960, sold for **€146,250 (lot 81)**. Bid was competitive for **Line Vautrin's black Talosel mirror of 1958**, which went for **€200,000** against an estimate of €40,000-50,000 - **a world auction record for this model** (lot 62).

The prices achieved for works by **Alberto Giacometti and Jean-Michel Frank** were a fine illustration of collectors' enthusiasm. The first session included four works by Alberto Giacometti, which all were sold. The two most sought-after were a bas-relief ***Vue de l'atelier (nature morte), 1936-1939***, from the former collection of the sculptor Georges Boulogne, which went for **€223,500 (lot 50)**, and an ***Ecossais gilt plaster lamp, a model created in around 1935***, which doubled its high estimate at **€137,500** (lot 49).

The sale also included works from a Venetian palazzo revamped by a key figure in post-modern design of the Eighties and Nineties, **Pucci de Rossi**. The dreamlike, fantastical world of the Italian designer clearly appealed to buyers, as witness a ***Jumbo semainier cabinet*** estimated at €6,000-8,000, which went for **€15,000 (lot 170)**. The designer's works rubbed shoulders with pieces like **André Dubreuil's *Cabinet oriental* (lot 165)**, which fetched **€75,000** (estimate: €40,000-60,000), and many contemporary works. These included ***Promenade in the Heredity Chromosome*** by Japanese artist **Tetsumi Kudo (lot 164)**, which sold for **€100,000** (estimated at €30,000-50,000), and an oil on canvas by Czech artist **František Muzika, *Bath in the Sea*, 1925 (lot 171, estimate: €20,000-30,000)** which smashed its estimate at **€211,500 – a world auction record for the artist**.

## Diego Giacometti

The evening sale staged by Sotheby's in Paris echoed the new world record achieved at Sotheby's New York for the monumental *Bibliothèque de l'île Saint-Louis* by Diego Giacometti, at €6.3 million. Bid was fiercely competitive for this artist's works in Paris. With a total of €5.5 million and 90% of lots selling above their high estimates, success was assured, and the results were remarkable. 100% of lots were sold by value. Collectors from five continents were as ever enchanted by the poetic, timeless, universal pieces created by the Swiss sculptor.

The three highest prices in this sale went to the *Les Animaux Rois* screen of 1984, which at **€727,500** pulverised its estimate of €400,000 (lot 212), the *Carcasse à la chauve-souris* table, 1982, which at **€607,500** made twice its high estimate of €300,000 (lot 223), and a pair of *Tête de lionne* armchairs from around 1980, which fetched **€559,500** against an estimate of €200,000-300,000 (lot 210). With

sculpture, the mischievous 1984 *Promenade des amis* was one of the most sought-after items, selling for **€403,500** against an estimate of €100,000-150,000 (lot 220).

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\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

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