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PRESS RELEASE

Important 20th Century and Contemporary Works Lead Phillips' New York Design Auction

Sale on 5 June to Include Works By Peter Voulkos, Alberto and Diego Giacometti, John Baldessari, Fernando and Humberto Campana, and More



Diego Giacometti

"Berceau" low table, second version, circa 1969

Estimate \$200,000 - 300,000

NEW YORK – 22 MAY 2024 – Phillips is pleased to announce highlights from the upcoming Design auction, set to take place on 5 June with the preview beginning on 30 May, with the full catalogue available for viewing [here](#). The sale will showcase a diverse range of works, with top highlights including works by **Alberto & Diego Giacometti**, **Peter Voulkos's** *Rasgado*, and **John Baldessari's** *Ear Sofa and Nose Sconces*. Notable pieces from the estates of Diana Shapiro and others will also be presented, offering collectors a unique opportunity to acquire rare and significant examples of 20th century and Contemporary design from important private collections. The works will be exhibited alongside [FREESTYLE: Living with Art & Design, Property from a Private New York Collection](#) with both sales taking place on the same day. The Design auction will commence at 11am ET, followed by *FREESTYLE: Living with Art & Design* at 2pm ET.

Benjamin Green, Associate Specialist, Head of Sale, notes, "We are excited to welcome collectors back to Phillips this June, as we present exceptional works that highlight the innovation and creativity of 20th Century and Contemporary designers. From Voulkos' pioneering ceramics to Baldessari's whimsical furniture pieces, this auction offers a chance to acquire works that not only exemplify the creators' unique visions but also mark significant moments in design history. Additionally, we are excited to hold our Design auction alongside our *FREESTYLE: Living with Art & Design, Property from a Private New York Collection* sale, providing multiple opportunities for collectors to find what best suits their taste and imagination."



Peter Voulkos
"Rasgado", 1958
 Estimate \$300,000 - 500,000

Holding the highest two world auction records for **Peter Voulkos**, Phillips is proud to present *Rasgado*, a sculpture by the artist titled after the Spanish guitar technique and boasting the top lot position of the sale. Created in 1958, *Rasgado* marks a crucial early moment in Voulkos' career and exemplifies his innovative approach to ceramics, combining wheel throwing, slab construction, and abstract forms. This work, which has remained in the same family since its purchase from the artist in 1959, is making its first appearance on the market, underscoring its rarity and historical significance.

The auction features five important works from the estate of Diana Shapiro, including **Diego Giacometti's** *"Berceau" low table, second version, Tabouret à la harpie, and Cheval, tête baissée* as well as Alberto Giacometti's *"Figure" floor lamp* and *"Étoile" table lamp*. These pieces were acquired directly from Diego Giacometti in the late 1960s and into the early 1980s by Diana and Irvin Shapiro, who would go on to be long-

time friends of the artist, with Giacometti's works being kept in the same New York City apartment decades beyond their original creation. These pieces demonstrate the artists' mastery in creating timeless, functional art, with exquisite craftsmanship and whimsical elements making them highly sought after in the market.

John Baldessari's *Ear Sofa and Nose Sconces*, created in 2009, are standout pieces that blur the lines between art and functional design. These works, part of an edition of six produced by Beyer Projects, were designed for Baldessari's 2009 exhibition at the Museum Haus Lange in Germany and were also later installed in the Sprüth Magers Gallery in London as a performance piece involving a live actor seated on the sofa, smoking, with two white poodles on either side. The playful, yet thought-provoking, furniture pieces reflect Baldessari's fascination with human anatomy and his ability to transform everyday objects into profound artistic statements.



John Baldessari
"Ear Sofa" and "Nose Sconces", 2009
 Estimate \$150,000 - 200,000



Alberto Giacometti
"Figure" floor lamp, designed circa 1933, cast circa 1969
 Estimate \$200,000 - 300,000

A rare *"Animais Variados"* sofa by the **Campana Brothers**, well known for their editioned seating designs of upholstered stuffed animals, is another auction highlight. This unique piece, designed for the Sao Paulo-based theatre company Companhia Delas de Teatro's 2003 production of the play *Burunganda*, features the brothers' signature use of stuffed animals as upholstery. The sofa, prototype 1 from an edition of 8 plus 2 prototypes, is being sold by renowned Brazilian architect Isay Weinfeld, who designed the set for the play.

The sale also features a selection of French designs spanning from the Art Deco to the Post-War period. Highlights are two works by Art Deco master **Albert Cheuret**, renowned for his lighting designs and smaller furniture pieces adorned with exotic bird



Fernando and Humberto Campana
 Rare *"Animais Variados"* sofa, 2003
 Estimate \$18,000 - 24,000

imagery. The ceiling light and pair of illuminated mirrors showcase Cheuret's signature "cigogne" (stork) motif. The sale also showcases Modernist designs that reflect a shift from the decorative styles of the 1920s towards more simplified and Cubist-inspired aesthetics, such as an armchair by **André Sornay**, a floor lamp by **Maison Desny**, and a carpet by **Ivan Da Silva Bruhns**. In the Post-War period, the use of materials such as steel, previously restricted due to wartime rationing, became more prevalent. Works by one of the most influential designers of this era, **Jean Prouvé**, are on offer with a number of his industrially produced seating and table designs.



Albert Cheuret
"Cigognes" ceiling light, circa 1925
 Estimate \$30,000 - 50,000

Alongside the works of French designers are important examples from 20th Century Italian designers, including furniture by **Gio Ponti** and



Doyle Lane
 Selection of three *Weed pots*, circa 1970
 Estimate \$4,000 - 6,000 each

lighting by **Angelo Lelii** and **Max Ingrand** for Fontana Arte. Building

on the strong representation of Brazilian designers in the recent London *Design* auction, the sale includes notable pieces from **José Zanine Caldas**, **Joaquim Tenreiro**, and **Martin Eisler**. These works demonstrate the rich tradition and modernity of Brazilian design, reflecting the country's unique contributions to the global design landscape. The auction will also include ceramics by renowned artists like **Lucie Rie** and **Doyle Lane**.

Rounding out the American Design portion of the sale is **Harry Bertoia's** *Untitled (Straw Form)*, circa 1960. Composed of hundreds of steel wires coated in brass and welded together, the present work hangs from above, commanding attention and exploring light and shadow within its open, jagged form.

Additional Highlights



Diego Giacometti
Tabouret à la harpie, circa 1977
 Estimate \$150,000 - 250,000



Harry Bertoia
Untitled (Straw Form), circa 1960
 Estimate \$100,000 - 150,000



Angelo Lelii
Rare ceiling light, circa 1959
 Estimate \$15,000 - 20,000

Auction: 5 June 2024

Auction viewing: 30 May - 5 June

Location: 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY, United States, 10022

Click here for more information: <https://www.phillips.com/auctions/auction/NY050124>

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PRESS CONTACTS:

NEW YORK – Jaime Israni, Head of PR and Corporate Communications, Americas jisrani@phillips.com

PHILLIPS NEW YORK – 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

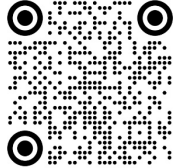
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