

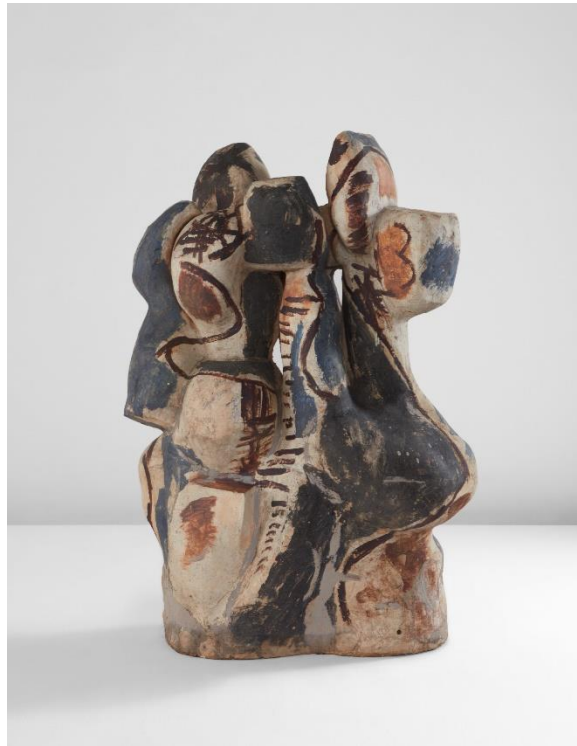
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PRESS RELEASE

Masterwork by Ceramist Peter Voulkos to Lead Phillips' December Design Auctions

Evening Sale to Also Feature Works by
Jean-Michel Frank, Eugene Schoen, and Alberto Giacometti

Sales to be Held on 12 December in New York



Peter Voulkos
Rondena, 1958
Estimate: \$300,000-500,000

NEW YORK - 27 NOVEMBER 2017 - On Tuesday, 12 December, Phillips will host its final Design auctions of the year with the Evening and Day Sales in New York. These auctions will present an opportunity for collectors of all levels and interests to acquire exceptional examples of 20th and 21st century Design. The Day Sale will begin at 10am, offering over 100 lots, with works by Fausto Melotti, Harry Bertoia, and Carlo Scarpa, among others. The Evening Sale will take place at 5pm, including 31 lots with works by Peter Voulkos, Jean-Michel Frank, Alberto Giacometti, and Eugene Schoen. Six works from the esteemed collection of Betty and Stanley Sheinbaum will be offered across both sessions.

Meaghan Roddy, Phillips' Senior Specialist, Design, said, "Our Design sales across the globe this year have seen a strong response from the market, with works performing well across all genres - from French and Italian design to American craft. The December auctions in New York will provide an exciting chance for connoisseurs and enthusiasts to

acquire rare-to-the-market works that figure prominently within the history of design. We are honored to have had the opportunity to work with the Sheinbaum estate in offering works from this highly esteemed collection, including Peter Voulkos' *Rondena*, a truly magnificent work that serves as a testament to the artist's importance, as well as the Sheinbaums' enduring contributions to the field."

Evening Sale | 12 December, 5pm

Leading the Evening Sale is Peter Voulkos' *Rondena*, executed in 1958, from the Sheinbaum collection (*illustrated page one and right, with artist*). The Sheinbaums were tremendous proponents of American craft during their lifetime. Recognizing the lack of exhibition venues for craft, the couple founded two highly successful galleries exclusively devoted to contemporary craft on the West and East Coast, both of which were operated by the nonprofit Fairtree Fine Crafts Institute established in 1971. Widely acknowledged as the leading figure of postwar American ceramics, Voulkos was keen to produce ceramic sculptures on a large scale and was particularly interested in the relationship between color and form. Exhibited in the seminal solo show *Ceramics, Sculpture and Painting by Peter H. Voulkos* at the Pasadena Art Museum in 1958-1959, *Rondena* belongs to a small group of works that radically changed the concept of ceramics. With echoes of de Kooning's women and Matisse's cut-outs, these works are widely considered some of his best and most historically significant. *Rondena* is undoubtedly the most ambitious of the works from this series and it has remained in the Sheinbaum family collection since it was acquired by them in 1959, just a year after its creation.



Peter Voulkos with *Rondena*, 1958
© Voulkos Family Trust, Courtesy of the Voulkos & Co.
Catalogue Project



Jean-Michel Frank, *Table Lamp*, circa 1925
Estimate: \$150,000-200,000

Jean-Michel Frank, *Low Table*, circa 1928
Estimate: \$250,000-350,000

Also highlighting the Evening Sale are several works by Jean-Michel Frank and his contemporaries. Frank's radical yet sophisticated style earned him the patronage of compelling figures, from the Parisian couturier Elsa Schiaparelli to American millionaires Templeton Crocker and Nelson A. Rockefeller. Yet he was much more than just a society decorator. He operated at the very center of interwar Paris's artistic and intellectual life. This group of seven lots in the Evening Sale, culled from several private European collections, are a celebration of Jean-Michel Frank's inventive use of materials, from the mica-covered table to the obsidian lamp (*both illustrated left*). Each of these austere objects exhibits perfection of form, stripped of everything but the essential and independent of historical references and styles. The dignity and beauty of the materials hold forth, unencumbered by excess ornament. Alberto Giacometti's "Figure" floor lamp falls within this group, as well. The work comprises part of the collection of decorative objects that Giacometti created for Frank between 1932 and 1940. One of the first to discover Giacometti's talent, Frank commissioned over seventy designs from the sculptor, which he prominently featured throughout his interiors. Giacometti created the present lot for Schiaparelli, likely for her private mansion on rue de Berri, which was designed by Frank in 1937.



Eugene Schoen

Important and Unique Cocktail Table, circa 1929
Estimate: \$80,000-120,000

An important and unique cocktail table by Eugene Schoen will also be offered in the Evening Sale (*illustrated left*). A central figure in American museum exhibitions of the late 1920s, Schoen's furniture was most frequently produced by the New York cabinetmakers Schmieg, Hungate and Kotzian, who fulfilled Schoen's vow of producing "one of a kind" pieces comparable in quality, finesse and sophistication to works produced in Paris. The present triple-tiered table was famously exhibited in *The Architect and the Industrial Arts*, the landmark Met exhibition of 1929. The Bakelite-surfaced tiers are framed in bronze, with the graduating crescent-form levels imitating the shifting of gears or camera shutters. The fluted nickel-plated legs are a clear Ruhlmann reference, but the overall effect is one of American modernity, and the underlying purpose of the design is most likely for a unique American entertainment of the Prohibition era, the Manhattan cocktail party.

Day Sale | 12 December, 10am

Preceding the Evening Sale, the Design Day Sale will offer further examples of French, Italian, and American design spanning the 20th century.

Additional studio ceramics from the collection of Betty and Stanley Sheinbaum will also be offered. Standing over 5 feet tall, Viola Frey's *World Civilization #1* (*illustrated right*) is a large-scale figural representation of working class people and a nod to the artist's upbringing on a California farm during the second World War. Long considered an influential figure on the forefront of twentieth-century American ceramics, the work of Viola Frey is held in over seventy institutions



Viola Frey

World Civilization #1, 1987
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000

internationally including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum, among others. A group of seventeen figures by David Gilhooly has also been consigned from the Sheinbaum collection. A follower of the "Funk" movement within ceramics, Gilhooly used the medium as a means of political and social satire.



Fausto Melotti

"Fungo" vase, circa 1965
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000

A group of Italian design from a private Chicago collection will be included in the Day Sale, featuring works by Ettore Sottsass, Jr., Gino Sarfatti, and a Tall "Fungo" vase, circa 1965, by Fausto Melotti (*illustrated left*). Additionally, eight important examples of Italian lighting have been consigned from a private collection in Miami, including works by Gae Aulenti, Superstudio, and Arredoluce.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DESIGN DAY SALE



Carlo Scarpa
Mirror, model no. 30, circa 1937
Estimate: \$12,000-18,000



Harry Bertoia
"Sonambient" soundingsculpture, circa 1970
Estimate: \$30,000-40,000



Jean Prouvé
Guéridon, circa 1946
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



Shiro Kuramata
Rare "Chair C (Square Pipe Armchair)," from the Lavina Yamagiwa Meeting Room, 1983
Estimate: \$5,000-7,000



Carlo Scarpa
Pair of floor lamps, model no. 518, circa 1942
Estimate: \$25,000-35,000

Auction: Tuesday, 12 December 2017

Auction viewing: 5-11 December

Location: 450 Park Avenue, New York

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