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# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Design at Sotheby's Australia

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design  
Auction in Sydney 21 June 2017

*Rare Art Deco figurine by Demétre Chiparus for auction*

*Oriental exoticism from Italy*

*Nature's beauty captured in glass*

*Striking silver design by Georg Jensen*



Demétre H. Chiparus (1886-1947) 'Antinea', circa 1925. Estimate \$70,000-90,000

Significant examples of 20th century European design will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 21 June in Sydney. Included are works of exquisite craftsmanship and vision, highlighting the foray into the modern age and advancement beyond the Victorian era.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Sotheby's Australia continues to set the benchmark for design sales with exceptional pieces by leading practitioners of the 20th century included in our *Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design* sale. These works will be a great source of excitement among collectors. The diversity and strength of our June auction is a testament to our commitment to sourcing rare pieces of the highest quality.'

### ART DECO ATLANTIS QUEEN

The figural sculptures by Demétre Chiparus epitomise the elegance and dynamism of the Art Deco style. Influenced by early motion pictures, the Russian ballet and French theatre Chiparus's subjects are typified by stylised long and slender figures. In 1921 the movie *L'Atlantide* was released based on the novel by Pierre Benoit, with the central character the Queen of Atlantis, *Antinea*. Antinea is an enchantress, whose beauty captivates men culminating in their entrapment. Chiparus's *Antinea* circa 1925 (estimate \$70,000-90,000, lot 278, pictured previous) is an alluring figure with Antinea on pointed toe with arms raised holding drapery that highlights her slender form.

### EXOTIC ORIENTALISM IN ITALY

A rare Carlo Bugatti (1856-1940) low table circa 1900 (estimate \$20,000-25,000, lot 268, pictured) encapsulates all the artistic elements the designer is renowned for. Bugatti's furnishings are rich in oriental exoticism, with influences including Moorish, Islamic, Japanese and even English Arts & Crafts. Signature features include use of ebonised wood inlaid with metal and foreign script. He was a pioneer in the use of vellum in furniture manufacture and in this low table it has been used to great effect.



### NATURE'S BEAUTY CAPTURED IN GLASS

In 1912 René Lalique designed the 'Grand Boule Lierre' exhibition vase (estimate \$25,000-30,000, lot 289, pictured). Literally translated as 'large Ivy ball,' the vase demonstrates René Lalique's ability to capture the decorative patterns to be found in nature and translate them into designs for the applied arts. Likely produced as a showcase piece, the vase demonstrates the skill of the designer and craftsman in the execution of the design in the round, incorporating frosted and clear glass, together, with a patina applied by a process of fusion. The vase has remained in the same family collection since it was purchased from the legendary Brisbane society antique dealer, Cecilia McNally in the 1970s.



## AFRICAN DANE

The epitome of modern design is from the house of Georg Jensen. A fine Danish sterling silver pitcher dubbed the 'African Girl' was designed by Henning Koppel in 1948 (estimate \$18,000-25,000, lot 263, pictured). Koppel joined Georg Jensen after World War II. One of his earliest concepts, design number 978 was formed out of his pursuit for the perfect pitcher – the craftsmen found the design a huge challenge when creating the beautiful long slender neck, reminiscent of the African women wearing neck rings.



## AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design

Auction at The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, Wednesday 21 June 2017, 5.30 pm

Total auction estimate \$1,552,300-2,205,400 | 416 lots

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

16-21 June, 10 am to 5 pm

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