

# LA GAZETTE DROUOT

INTERNATIONAL



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JANUARY 2015

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# 41<sup>ST</sup> SALON OF ANTIQUARIES and Contemporary Art



31 January – 8 February 2015

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# EDITORIAL

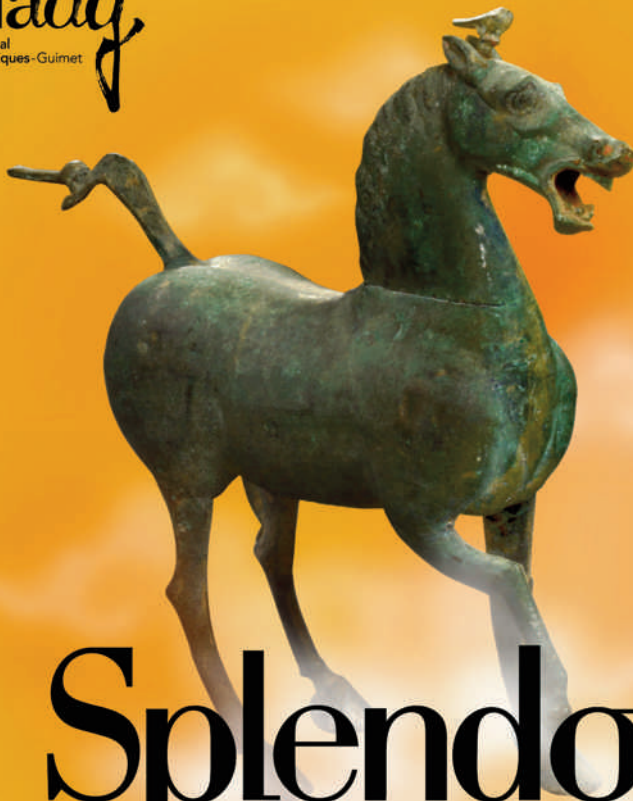


**Stéphanie Perris-Delmas**  
EDITORIAL MANAGER

2014 ended on a high note, proving the art market's impeccable health yet again, while elsewhere sluggishness seems to have dug in as a way of life. There was another spate of records this year, and international auction houses continued to career their way to glittering results. Which one – Paris, London, New York or even Hong Kong – will dominate the art market? But rather than indulge in the eternal musings that end a vintage year, we prefer to go to the heart of the matter, and the objects that have marked 2014. Seventeen specialities, including collectors' automobiles, sculptures, archaeological items, the arts of China, and Old Master paintings, were thoroughly explored, all representing the trends of a flourishing year. And isn't seventeen considered a magical number when we count our lucky stars?

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an

22 October 2014  
1 March 2015

# NEWS IN BRIEF



## Tribal Art in Brussels

Under the banner of Winter Bruneaf, 32 galleries specialising in non-European art are gathering for the art fair at the Grand Sablon in Brussels from 22 to 25 January. No fewer than 75% of the pieces come from Sub-Saharan Africa, an area popular with Belgian collectors because of their country's special connection with the Congo. Oceanic, Indonesian and pre-Columbian cultures will also be represented, along with ancient and Egyptian archaeological objects authenticated by a committee of specialists. First held in 2011, the event, which mainly features Belgian professionals, also welcomes other European and American exhibitors, who will be on hand for international collectors.

[www.bruneaf.com](http://www.bruneaf.com)

W

## Now in the Louvre

This rare work attributed to Gonzalo Peris is entering the Louvre's Spanish Painting department, following its acquisition by the Société des Amis du Louvre. Painted in the 1430s, this depiction of the Virgin holding her dead son is a fine example of the International Gothic style in Valencia at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries.

It was part of the Charles Gillot collection for 110 years, before being sold in 2008 for nearly four times its high estimate at a sale in Paris. Little is known about the artist, although he was certainly a contemporary of Bernat Martorell, an artist already represented at the Louvre. The painting will thus fit in harmoniously with the museum's current collection, providing further insight into this turn-of-the-century movement.



## Reopening of the gilded house

An iconic symbol of Antiquity, Nero's lavish Roman villa, the "Domus Aurea", inspired Raphael and many other painters right through to the 19th century. The preservation of this palace is a major concern for Western culture, as visitors to the site will be able to see for themselves: currently undergoing restoration work, it is open to the public every weekend until 8 March 2015. An appeal for donations has been launched to secure the future of the monument, which has suffered water damage.

[www.cantieredomusaurea.it](http://www.cantieredomusaurea.it)

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RM AUCTIONS



## Master Drawings New York

From 24 to 31 January, 36 of the top galleries in New York and Europe specialising in the graphic arts are joining forces in the Big Apple to present their latest acquisitions, ranging from medieval illuminations to contemporary pieces. Enthusiasts will discover a work by Sir Joshua Reynolds lost for over a hundred years, a preparatory study by Salvator Rosa for his painting "Glaucus and Scylla" (now in the Musée de Beaux-Arts in Brussels), and a piece by Bonnard, similar to his study for "Conversation", now in the MoMa. Also worth seeing: this enchanting watercolour by Jan Van Kessel at the Mia Weiner Gallery.

[www.masterdrawingsinnewyork.com](http://www.masterdrawingsinnewyork.com)



## 2015 Contemporain Drawing Award

The three nominees are: Tomma Abts, Jockum Nordström and Pavel Pepperstein. The Fondation d'Art Contemporain Daniel & Florence Guerlain will award its prize in Paris on 26 March 2015 during the Salon du Dessin, now a major event. Since 2006, it has been choosing a work by an artist from within or outside France, for whom drawing is a crucial medium. A piece by the winning artist will be donated to the Centre Pompidou.

## Pre-emption by the Chateau de Versailles

Five pastels by Wallerand Vaillant (1623-1677) have now entered the collections of the Chateau de Versailles. The institution pre-empted these portraits of the young Louis XIV, Eleanor Gonzaga and Maria-Anna, Anne and Maria Theresa of Austria, during a sale in Paris at Drouot (Coutau-Bégarie), for €42,500.





## "Voyager au Moyen Âge"

Over hill, over dale. From the discovery of distant lands to the soul's spiritual journey, there were many voyages in the Middle Ages, as witness the sumptuous and everyday objects now on show at the Musée de Cluny until 23 February.

[www.musee-moyenage.fr](http://www.musee-moyenage.fr)

W

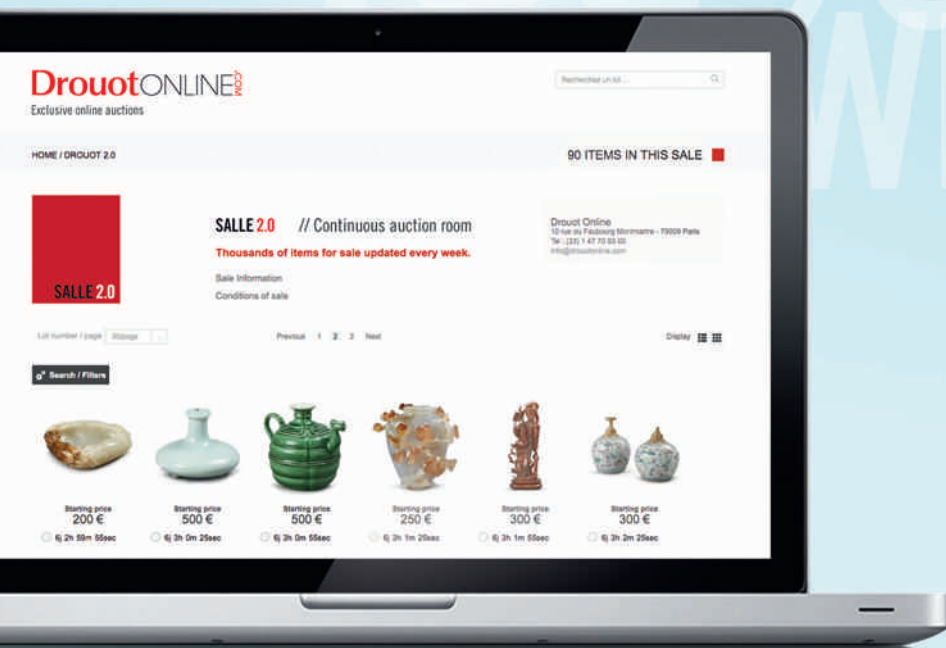
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# UPCOMING AUCTIONS

FIND THE CALENDAR OF UPCOMING AUCTIONS

W

2 FEBRUARY HD

## Astrolabe

This astrolabe has seen nearly 800 summers, yet it is still as gleaming as ever! The inscription on the object, in Maghrebi Arabic, indicates that it was executed by Muhammad bin Qasim of Cordoba in Fez in year 619 of the Hegira (corresponding to June 1222). Known since Antiquity, thanks to Ptolemy, the astrolabe indicated local time, and enabled sailors to locate their position from the stars. It was the main instrument used in navigation until the 16th century. Its planispheric version was developed in the Arab world during the 8th century. The example here, which belonged to Professor Deschiens of Paris, is the oldest model made in the Moroccan city of Fez, based on a Spanish model of Cordoba produced in around 1070 by a skilful engraver. The "spider" shows the names of 23 stars and has an attractive decoration of flowerets, while the "mater" features the "double shaded square" and a zodiac calendar on the back. The instrument has a diameter of 252 mm and is in beautiful condition. With an estimate of €50,000/80,000, it looks set to be the star of a sale dedicated to the navy, staged at Drouot (Tessier-Sarrou).

Caroline Legrand



2 FEBRUARY HD ○

## Le Corbusier and Jeanneret for Chandigarh

In 1947, after the partition of their country, the Indians chose a new capital: Chandigarh. This city at the foot of the Himalayas became an incredibly fertile focus for experiments in architecture and urban planning. After some hesitation, the design project was given to the French architect Le Corbusier. His cousin, Pierre Jeanneret remained in the city for the next fifteen years (1951 to 1966) to supervise the work. He designed over a hundred buildings, while training local artisans and adapting to their techniques and way of life. He also oversaw the production of furniture halfway between tradition and modernity, like this teak, cotton canvas and rope unit chair, which can be dismantled, produced in around 1953-1954 using exotic wood and ordinary, easily replaceable local materials (€50,000/60,000 photo). This sale in Marseille (Leclere auction house) dedicated to design from the Fifties to the present day will be offering yet another fine selection by Pierre Jeanneret and Le Corbusier, including a sofa and two "pied pont" armchairs from 1955, estimated at €50,000/60,000). Also worth noting: a desk by Jean Prouvé (€15,000/18,000), an LCII wall lamp designed by Le Corbusier (€12,000/15,000) and a tapestry by Mathieu Matégot (€7,000/9,000). There is also a fine array of Italian creations including a "Puzzle" table by Grabiella Crespi in brass and glass (€40,000), a "1774" model coffee table by Fontana Arte (€20,000/25,000) and a marble console by Ettore Sottsass (€35,000/40,000): a special commission dating from 1984.

C.L.



# Paris, automobile capital

With Rétromobile, Paris will be the centre of the world for automobile collectors during a week that also contains three auctions.

4 FEBRUARY  

## 1939 Alfa Romeo 6C2500 Sport Berlinetta

The new 2015 season of RM Auctions is opening in Paris! The collectors' cars presented by the Canadian auction house will be rolling for a second time onto the cobbles of the Place Vauban, near the Invalides, to end the 30th International Automobile Festival. Around sixty racing, sports and touring models will be illustrating the history of the car industry up to the present day. You will go back in time with a 1934 Lancia Belna Eclipse, one of two models with a body by Pourtout and an "Éclipse" sunroof invented by Georges Paulin. Paulin was the creator of the sculptural aerodynamic line of this model, which will soar away for €300,000 to €375,000. Also in the starting line, a 1935 Delahaye 135 S, in its day a star of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, will be driven off for around €1.4M. A historical footnote makes an appearance with a 1939 Alfa Romeo 6C2500 Sport Berlinetta: this automotive beauty, faithfully restored by Francesco Bonfanti, was given by Mussolini to his mistress Claretta Petacci (€1.9-2.4M *photo*).





5 FEBRUARY HD ○

## Alfa Romeo 6C1750 Gran Sport Spider

Bonhams moves into the Grand Palais again with a selection of collectors' cars highlighting Italian models of the 1930s and British post-war cars. Famous for its victories in competitions, Alfa Romeo produced some legendary cars, at ease on the circuit and the road alike. The 6C 1750 is one of those historical models. It came out in several versions, including the "Gran Sport" - undoubtedly the most desirable. Collectors should set aside at least €1.8M for the 1931 Spider with compressor, with coachwork by Zagato, formerly owned by Giuseppe Campari (*photo*). Other classics will be represented, like the Bentley R-Type Continental. The 1955 coupé on offer here, British luxury incarnate, is one of the few models with a body by a French coachbuilder, the well-known Jean-Baptiste Franay of Levallois-Perret (€850,000/1,150,000). Another icon of the British Empire (also driven by James Bond) is the Aston Martin DB5, a 1965 cabriolet. The price of this fantasy: around €1.7M.





6 FEBRUARY HD ○

## Designed by Pininfarina

Exciting discoveries are always possible! Languishing in their hangars for nearly fifty years, 60 vehicles collected with a museum in mind by the entrepreneur Roger Baillon will be in the limelight at Rétromobile, thanks to Artcurial. Enthusiasts will revel in the original condition of these icons of car-making, from its beginnings to the Seventies, by famous coachbuilders. Designed by Pininfarina, sporting a short chassis and streamlined headlights, a 1961 Ferrari 250 California will turn heads at between €9.5M and €12M (*photo*). This beautiful creature, one of 37 produced, once belonged to Alain Delon. Meanwhile, Frua designed the lines of a 1956 Maserati A6G Gran Sport, one of three models he built himself, going for around €1M. No fewer than nine Delahayes will be lining up, and as many Talbot Lagos, including an aerodynamic T26 Grand Sport. An appealing introduction for the next part of the programme, where a 1928 Bugatti 43 Grand Sport formerly owned by Malcolm Campbell will be awaiting you (€2/3M).

Sophie Reyssat







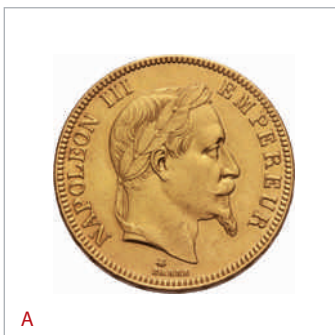
# AUCTION RESULTS



FIND AUCTION RESULTS ON THE INTERNET

W

# NUMISMATICS



A



B



C



D

## A €79,300

Napoléon III. 100 gold francs, Paris, 1870, weight 32.31 g.

Paris, Hôtel Ambassador, 28 and 29 October, Alde auction house.

## B €262,752

Bohemia, Rudolph II (1576-1612), 5 ducats d'or, 1598, Prague, 17.38 g.

Paris, Hôtel du Louvre, 25 March, Christophe Joron-Derem auction house.

## C €21,385

Sovereign (15.25 g) struck in London in 1553 under Mary Tudor.

Paris, Salle Provence, 6 May, Delorme, Collin du Bocage auction house.

## D €66,780

Consulat, 5 francs en or (36,33 g) from the year XI, unique, presented to Premier Consul Bonaparte in 1803.

Paris, Salle V.V, 15 May, Damien Leclère auction house.

## E €47,500

Yuan Shihkai, President of the Republic of China 15 February 1912 - 12 December 1915, Emperor of China 12 December 1915 - 22 March 1916, Dollar struck in gold (1916). 37.33 g, Kann 1560; KM Pn 44 Rare. Superb.

Paris, Drouot, 20 June, Eve auction house.

HD



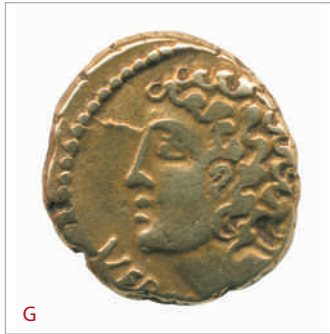
E

In 2014's list of leading specialities, numismatics struck gold! One of the highlights was the sale organised at the Hôtel du Louvre on 25 March. Dominated by an impressive provenance, namely the former collection of Hugo von Ziegler-Schindler (1890-1966), it took a total of €3,527,572 (Joron-Derem). On that occasion, bidders assembled from all over the world witnessed five new world records, including €262,752 for the gold 5-ducat coin bearing the effigy of Rudolf II. The year could hardly have got off to a more auspicious start, with a set of gold Roman coins garnering €1,230,936 on 12 February (Frayse & Associés), €192,000 of which went to a gold aureus of Maximilian (235-238). The 2014 season ended as it had begun, with hard cash in the shape of the €298,750 obtained by a 10 Louis d'or with the draped bust of Louis XIII, struck in Paris in 1640. It set a new world record for a Louis d'or, dethroning the one in the famous Jean Poncet collection.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



F



G

**F €192,000**

Maximin (235-238), gold aureus coin (March 235-January 236), weight 6.68 g.

Paris, Drouot, 12 February, Fraysse & Associés auction house.

**G €126,000**

Arvernes Vercingetorix, gold stater. Side A: bare head with curled hair. Side B: unbridled horse, an amphora below and a crescent moon above.

Paris, Drouot, 12 February, Fraysse & Associés auction house.

**H €3,890**

5,000 franc note, Flameng, 04-01-1918.

Paris, Drouot, 8 April 2014, Beaussant - Lefèvre auction house.



**I €298,750**

Jean Warin (1607-1672), Paris, 1640, 10 Louis d'or with clothed bust, 67.55 g. World record for a Louis d'or.

Paris, Drouot, 21 November, Rieunier & De Muizon auction house.





# ARCHAEOLOGY



A



B



C



D

HD



**A €118,750**

Statue of Aphrodite, white marble, Roman Art, 1st century BC – 1st century AD, h. 54 cm.

Nice, 25 October, Hôtel des ventes de Nice Riviera auction house.

**B €130,000**

Torso of statue from 1st/2nd century, white marble, h. 64 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 29 November, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.

**C €562,800**

Egypt, 26th Dynasty. Head attributed to Apries, Granodiorite, circa 589-570 BC, h. 39 cm.

Paris, 21 May, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.

**D €942,400**

Egypt, New Empire, end of the 18th Dynasty. Head of Egyptian dignitary, quartzite, h. 24 cm.

Vannes, 31 May, Jack-Philippe Ruellan auction house.

**E €1,116,000**

Roman Art, 2nd century. Portrait of Hadrian, white marble, h. 59 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 30 April, Tessier & Sarrou auction house.

**F €500,500**

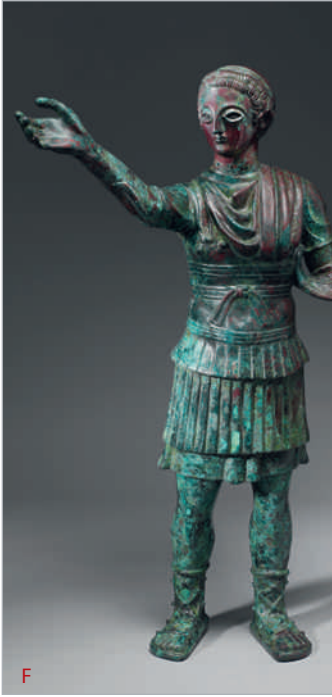
Arabic peninsula, 3rd-1st century BC. Statue depicting a king saluting, bronze, h. 80 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 21 May 2014, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.

E

Archaeology turned a few heads this season - like this portrait of Hadrian, knocked down for €1,116,000! In addition to the quality of the sculpture and its imperial subject, it had a fine pedigree: a sine qua non in this field. Bought in 1947 by Baroness Yvonne Clément de Givry, it had remained in her family ever since. Another highlight was the sale of a portrait of an Egyptian dignitary from the 18th dynasty, which went for €942,400 on 31 May in Vannes. Along with Ancient Rome, Egyptian civilisation was a particular hit, attracting some of the best bids of the year, such as the €562,800 obtained by the head of Apries, sold in Paris by Pierre Bergé.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



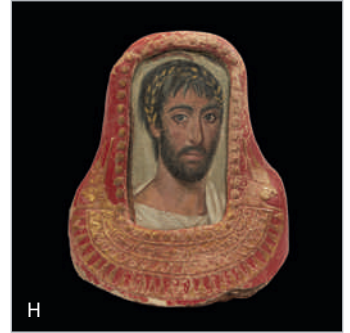
F

**G €206,580**

Italy, Hellenistic Period (late fourth century BC - late first century BC). Head of Ceres, Carrara marble, h. 26 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 21 November, Audap-Mirabaud auction house.



G



H

**H €443,530**

Egypt, Hawara, reign of Trajan, circa 98-117. Portrait of a young man of high rank, waxed wooden panel, gold leaf, linen, red pigment and gilded stucco, 46 x 37 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 26 November 2013, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.

**I €475,580**

Egypt, 25th Dynasty (751-656 BC), probably Temple of Montou in Karnak-Nord. Block statue bearing the name of prophet Amon Pami, son of Djed-Khonsou-iou-ef-ankh, basalt, h. 31.8 cm.

Paris Drouot, 29 November, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.



I



# JEWELLERY



A



B



C

HD



D

## A €142,600

Van Cleef & Arpels, "Pelouse" bracelet, platinum and gold with diagonally-cut rubies and brilliant-cut diamonds.

Paris, Drouot, 11 April, Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés auction house.

## B €1,026,640

Platinum ring adorned with a pear-cut diamond weighing 21.13 carats, colour G, purity VS1.

Paris, Drouot, 1-2 December, Jean-Marc Delvaux auction house.

## C €76,880

Jean Schlumberger (1907-1987). Demountable brooch in gold and platinum shaped as a stylised flower with petals lined with brilliant-cut diamonds and emerald-cut diamonds, a caterpillar set with diamonds and a flower-bud, French work circa 1950-1960.

Paris, Drouot, 6 June, Thierry de Maigret auction house.

## D €406,250

Van Cleef & Arpels, white gold and platinum clip with 822 brilliant-cut diamonds (33.35 ct) and 79 baguette-cut diamonds (4.55 ct), signed and numbered 5237/CS1013, original case, 12 x 9.5 cm, gross weight: 109 g.

Fontainebleau, 18 May, Osenat auction house.

## E €707,840

Diamond weighing 7.4 carats, Gemological Institute of America certifies from 2010 and 2014 stipulating its perfect colour condition (D).

Paris, Drouot, 9 April, Ferri auction house.



**F €124,000**

Raymond Templier (1891-1968), silver and black lacquer articulated bracelet, circa 1929, gross weight 110.8 g, 19 x 3.4 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 26 November, Thierry de Maigret auction house.



**G €310,960**

Necklace with three rows of 148 fine drop pearls, gold, 5.6-10.2 mm.

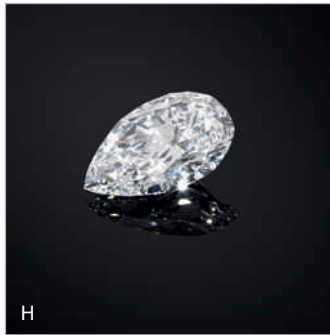
Paris, Drouot, 10 February, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.



**H €756,400**

Platinum ring with Van Cleef & Arpels setting containing a pear-cut diamond of 10.14 carats, nestling within two pear-cut diamonds, one approximately 0.85 carats, the other approx 0.90 carats.

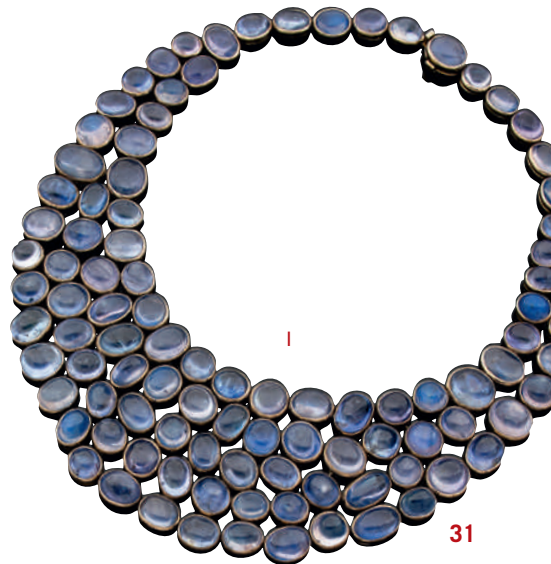
Paris, Drouot, 10 December, Tessier-Sarrou auction house.



**I €514,600**

Suzanne Belperron (1900-1983), jewellery set made circa 1935 comprising a drapery necklace in grey gold studded with cabochon sapphires in bezel settings, gross weight 136 g, and a broad articulated bracelet in grey gold composed of cabochon diamonds in bezel settings, gross weight 163 g, 17 x 9 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 17 December, Drouot Estimations auction house.



As well as being a girl's best friend, as the exquisite Marilyn Monroe used to sing, diamonds are a safe investment, particularly sought-after in times of economic crisis. Preferably white, although coloured stones also have their admirers, diamonds attract the best bids: €1,026,640 acclaimed a 21.13 ct pear-cut stone mounted on a platinum ring (Delvaux). Although the French market cannot match the records set in Geneva because of its less favourable tax system, it does offer some handsome opportunities, such as this 10.14 ct pear-cut diamond in a Van Cleef & Arpels setting, knocked down for €756,400 (Tessier-Sarrou). Connoisseurs tend to go for the great names in jewellery, like the famous company of the Place Vendome. But some lesser-known designers also stand out, like Raymond Templier, whose bracelet, estimated at €12,000, took €124,000. Another major trend in this field: fine pearls have regained their value of yesteryear!

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas

# FASHION



A



B



C



D

HD



E

**A €21,760**

Saint Laurent Rive Gauche circa 1985, evening dress, muslin and stitched black satin, declaring "Je suis belle". Paris, Drouot, 20 October, Gros & Delettrez auction house.

**B €31,500**

Montana wool coat from the 1988 autumn/winter collection. Paris, Drouot, 17 March, Gros & Delettrez auction house.

**C €43,750**

Afternoon dress, stitched linen with straight-stitch floral decoration, accompanied by a linen canezou with double col-pèlerine, circa 1830. Paris, Drouot, 20 June, Daguerre auction house.

**D €35,000**

Set of beachwear by Paul Poiret from c.1912 comprising a pea jacket and a pair of linen trousers printed with an artichoke motif designed at Atelier Martine. Paris, Drouot, 7 April, Eve auction house.

**E €40,888**

Christian Dior (1905-1957), autumn/winter 1957, "Venezuela" dress in chiné silk with branch and flower motifs. Paris, Drouot, 8 July, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.

**F €35,728**

Jean Paul Gaultier, "Lascar" dress, haute couture Spring-Summer 2000 collection, navy blue silk thread with lacquered ostrich feather extensions. Paris, Drouot, 28 and 29 April, Rieunier & Associés auction house.

Paris really is the capital of fashion. Haute couture has also made its mark on the auction world, especially at Drouot, which has hosted a string of famous collections by Elsa Schiaparelli and Paul Poiret, among others. 2014 was marked by the next chapter in the sales of the Danielle Luquet de Saint Germain collection begun by the Gros & Delettrez auction house the year before. Yves Saint Laurent's muse from Lyon adored fashion, and assembled a gigantic wardrobe of around 12,000 items, which were dispersed over several sessions. Without attaining the heights of October 2013 (€118,750 for a chiffon dress by Yves Saint Laurent), 2014 saw a Saint Laurent Rive Gauche cocktail outfit go for €21,760, while a coat with the Montana label garnered €31,500. Another fashion star, Mouna Ayoub, was selling off mementos from the Phocéa, nicknamed the "couture yacht". A superb striped dress by Jean Paul Gaultier fetched €35,730 (Rieunier & Associés). But the surprise of this 2014 edition was due not to a great 20th century designer dress, but to an immaculate white creation from the late Empire, circa 1830, which made €43,750.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas





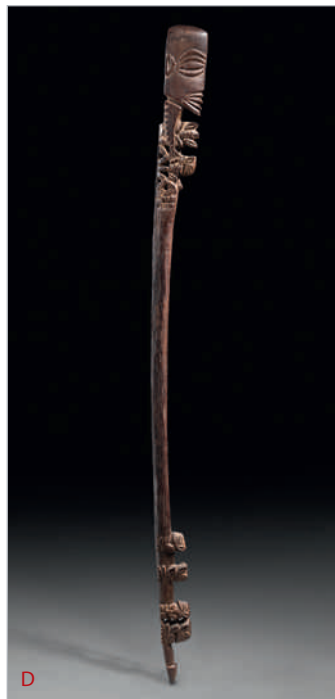
# TRIBAL ART



A

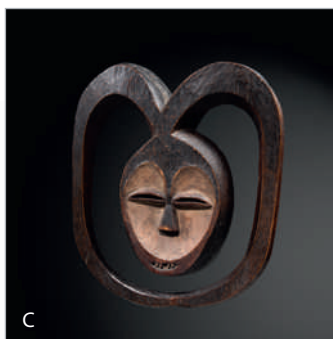


B



D

HD



C



E

**A €273,760**

Lega, Democratic Republic of Congo. Ivory head with red-orange patina, with fibres and money cowry shells, h. 15.5 cm.

Paris, Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild, 9 April, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.

**B €1,609,500**

Ancestor Figure, Uli, Mandak Area, Central New Ireland, h. 140 cm. World record for a work from New Ireland.

Paris, 16 September, Sotheby's.

**C €287,500**

Gabon - Congo. Kwele mask, wood with original two-tone colouring, h. 40 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 6 June, Binoche - Giquello auction house.



**D €387,500**

Archipelago of the Cook Islands, Rarotonga Island. Staff god Atua Rakau. Hardwood with shiny patina, h. 145.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 6 June, Binoche - Giquello auction house.

**E €600,000**

Gabon, late 19th century. Bumba reliquary figure, Haut-Ogoué region, wood, brass, iron, h. 44 cm.

Nice, 6 December, Hôtel des ventes Nice Riviéra auction house.

**F €4,353,500**

Statue, Fang Mabea, early 19th century, Cameroon, H. 67.5 cm.

Paris, 18 June, Sotheby's.

**G €1,375,000**

Guro people, Ivory Coast, Master of Bouaflé style, dance mask, wood, original polychromy, h. 57.3 cm. Base attributed to Kichizo Inagaki.

Paris, Drouot, 11 June, Tajan auction house.



Tribal art remains one of the French market's great specialities. Prestigious collections regularly liven up the auction season, setting numerous world records to boot, and 2014 was no exception. Murray Frum's Oceanic art collection attracted some intense bidding, particularly for an Uli figure from New Ireland, which went for €1.6M in Paris (Sotheby's). Africa also landed a bid of over a million with a dance mask from the Guro people (Ivory Coast) attributed to the "Bouaflé Master", an artist from whom we have fewer than a dozen works (Tajan auction house). This remarkable piece had belonged to some famous collections, including those of André Breton and Charles Ratton. The end of the year was also marked by a six-figure bid recorded in Nice: €600,000 for a Bumba reliquary figure from the Haut-Ogoué region, a piece that Louis Perrois, a Gabonese reliquary specialist, attributes to the same sculptor as one in the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



# OLD MASTER PAINTING



**A €262,500**

François Boucher (1703-1770), "Jeux d'enfants ou L'Automne", oil on canvas, 87 x 136 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 25 June, Ader auction house.

**B €487,500**

French school circa 1670, "Nature morte au tapis iranien et à la coupe de fruits", canvas, 161 x 199 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 14 November, Daguerre auction house.

**C €608,000**

Eglon Hendrick Van der Neer (1634-1703), "La Grande Dame", oil, signed and dated "E Van der Neer, fec./1665", 64 x 55.5 cm.

Moullins, 26 May, Moullins Enchères Sadde auction house.



**D €775,000**

Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725-1805), "Figure de jeune homme", canvas, 56.5 x 46.5 cm. French record for the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 7 April, Rieunier & Associés auction house.

**E €913,960**

Frans Pourbus the Younger (1569-1622), "Portrait of a Man aged 56", 1591, oil on oak panel, 101.5 x 76 cm. Enghien-les-Bains, 23 November, Enghien auction house.

HD



E

Without achieving the well-publicised figures of modern and contemporary art, Old Masters still fetch some impressive hammer prices, with no shortage of six-figure bids! The field has increasingly been suffering from a lack of major pieces, hence collectors' ecstasy when a "museum-quality" work comes along. The French market regularly provides such works, and forms the speciality's Golden Triangle along with London and New York. Buoyed up by the success of Paris Tableau, the capital and numerous players in the surrounding region register high bids every year, such as the €913,960 obtained last November in Enghien-les-Bains by a remarkable signed "Portrait of a Man aged 56" by Frans Pourbus the Younger (a world record for the artist), and the €865,500 fetched by a "Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy". In the hands of Artemisia Gentileschi, this reputedly difficult religious subject takes on a captivating sensuality. The speciality has recorded the best French bid of the year: €3,755,500 for a portrait of an old man painted by Tiepolo. Sold at Drouot on 18 December, the canvas was bought by an American.

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**F €595,740**

Pieter Brueghel II (1564-1637) and a Flemish artist from the second half of the 17th century, "The Census at Bethlehem", oil on panel, 88.5 x 121.5 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 31 March 2014, Piasa auction house.

**G €677,600**

Pieter Claesz (1597-1660), "A Still Life with pheasant, roemer, ceramic jug, silver salt-cellar and silverware", oak panel, 49 x 75 cm.  
Nîmes, 1 February, Nîmes auction house.

**H €865,500**

Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1654), "Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy", oil on canvas, 81 x 105 cm.  
Paris, 26 June, Sotheby's.

**I €3,755,500**

Giambattista Tiepolo (1696-1770), "Face of a man with a red money bag", oil on canvas, 86 x 58 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 17 December, Pierre Bergé auction house.

# ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE



A



B



C

HD



E



D

**A €74,000**

First Empire. Oval pedestal table, porphyry top with openwork bronze surround, clawed feet decorated with grotesque masks linked with a gilt bronze stretcher, 60 x 49 cm.  
Louviers, 6 July, Jean-Emmanuel Prunier auction house.

**B €97,500**

Attributed to Jean-Baptiste Tiliard, giltwood chair circa 1765.  
Paris, Drouot, 27 March, Daguerre auction house.

**C €68,860**

Turin, Italy, second quarter of 18th century, salon table in blackened and gilded wood, richly ornamented curved legs ending in deer hooves supporting a black lacquered top decorated with a lakeside landscape with pagodas and mountains, 72.5 x 76 x 54 cm.  
Hôtel Le Bristol, 7 December, Marc-Arthur Kohn auction house.

**D €55,800**

Transition period, stamped by Jean-François Dubut (d. 1778), commode in Chinese lacquer with gold and black decoration, gilt bronze ornamentation, top of Breche d'Alep marble. 79 x 49 x 32 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 4 June, Thierry de Maigret auction house.

**E €930,000**

Attributed to Henry Dasson (1825-1896), roll-top desk after the model executed by Eben and Riesener for Louis XV at Versailles, sycamore veneer, amaranth, citron wood, rosewood, tinted wood, ebony and boxwood, gilt bronze ornamentation, 149 x 194.5 x 97.5 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 25 March, Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés auction house.





F

**F €156,250**

Attributed to François-Honoré-Georges Jacob, also known as Jacob-Desmalter (1770-1841), flat-topped mahogany desk, double face with six face-to-face drawers and two writing slides, mahogany inlay and gilt bronze detail (attributed to Thomire), Empire period, 79.5 x 184 x 87 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 13 June, FL. Auction auction house.

**G €73,160**

François-Honoré-Georges Jacob-Desmalter (1770-1841). Pedestal table supported by a stock made of wood and gilded stucco, base of mahogany veneer; white marble top with a stripe of inserted black marble, h. 78, diam. 105 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 27 and 28 June, J. J. Mathias, Baron - Ribeyre & Associés, Farrando auction houses.



G



**H €43,750**

Jean-Baptiste Tiliard (attributed to), Louis XV period chair "à chassis" (with removable frame) in richly carved gilt wood, upholstered in antique brocade silk.

Paris, Drouot, 28 May, Boisgirard - Antonini auction house.

**I €349,888**

Gilles Joubert (1689-1775), Transition period, commode with double protruding central marquetry section decorated with ivory and precious wood, gilt bronzes, Breche d'Alep marble top, 90 x 147 x 65 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 27 June, Mathias, Baron-Ribeyre & Associés and Farrando auction houses.

It is said to be burnt out, losing momentum or even unfashionable. The antique furniture market has certainly been sluggish for several years now, even if prestigious institutions are celebrating the speciality, none more so than the Chateau de Versailles, which devoted an exhibition to it: "The 18th century: the origins of design". But any disenchantment only concerns the medium range: top-end and original pieces are soaring, according to 18th century chair specialist Bill Pallot. Great names and original pieces are immune to the crisis, as witness a Louis XV desk from Versailles, attributed to Henry Dasson, which sold at Drouot last March (Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés) for a mere €930,000... *Stéphanie Perris-Delmas*



I

# 20TH CENTURY FURNITURE



A

© Giacometti Estate (Fondation Giacometti, Paris) and ADAGP, Paris, 2015



B

## A €3,681,500

Jean-Michel Frank (1895-1941), a unique gypsum and patinated bronze cabinet, circa 1935, 109 x 75.5 x 22 cm.

Paris, 11 and 12 March, Artcurial & Sotheby's.

## B €500,000

Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966), Trompette lamp base, 1936, bronze model with medallion patina with red and golden brown tones, Rudier foundry, h. 152 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 5 December, Ader auction house.

## C €54,100

Jacques Grüber (1870-1936), "Pensée et ombelles". Coffee table made of walnut and rosewood, precious wood marquetry, 79 x 94.5 x 68 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 23 June, Millon & Associés auction house.



C



D

## D €225,360

Diego Giacometti (1902-1985), pair of stools known as "X-stools", hammered patinated bronze, 42 x 46.5 x 39 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 11 December, Christophe Joron-Derem auction house.

## E €65,440

Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999), three-legged swivel armchair in light wood, c. 1948, Edition BCB - Georges Blanchon.

Paris, Drouot, 30 June, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.

HD



E

## F €125,000

Marc du Plantier (1901-1975), Egyptian-style chaise longue with white-leaded oak finish, 74.5 x 204 x 74.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 12 February, Le Brech & Associés auction house.

The decorative arts are still going strong, as was evident last March in Paris with the sale of the collection of Felix Marcilhac, a specialist, gallery owner and author of several reference works. With a total of €24.7M and 21 world records, this session has down in the history of the decorative arts. Jean-Michel Frank took first place with his gypsum cabinet, knocked down for €3,681,500. The designer's less iconic creations are also highly successful, such as a low table in shagreen, sold for €319,260 at Drouot. Charlotte Perriand and Marcel Coard are still among the most sought-after artists, along with a certain Alberto Giacometti...

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



F



H

**G €278,355**

Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999), suspended "Cloud" piece, composed of asymmetric bookshelf, chest with sliding doors, ash wood cupboard on lath wood core, folded black-lacquered sheet metal and plastic, Steph Simon edition, circa 1960, 213 x 390 x 42 cm.

Joigny, 16 March, Joigny Enchères - Joigny Estimations auction house.

**H €319,260**

Jean-Michel Frank (1893-1941), pedestal table with original shagreen covering, h. 48, diam. 65 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 28 November, Brissonneau auction house.

**I €445,500**

Marcel Coard (1889-1975), armchair, rosewood parchment, mother-of-pearl, 73 x 63 x 78 cm.

Paris, 11 and 12 March, Artcurial & Sotheby's auction houses.



G



I



# MODERN PAINTING



**A €287,960**

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), "Jeune femme au chapeau et visage d'enfant", oil on canvas, 23 x 18.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 8 December, Audap-Mirabaud auction house.

**B €58,700**

Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes (1884-1974), "Baigneuses dans la calanque", oil on panel, 86 x 78 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 21 June, Catherine Charbonneaux auction house.



**C €525,000**

Maurice Denis (1870-1943), "Annunciation at Fiesole (in red shoes)", 1898, oil on canvas, 78 x 117 cm. On the back, sketch for "Marthe and Marie", 1896. French record for the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 12 February, Beaussant - Lefèvre auction house.

**D €108,460**

Théodore Chassériau (1819-1856), "Deux femmes demi-nues de dos", study for "Le Retour de la guerre", oil on canvas, 40.4 x 32.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 28 May, Blanchet & Associés and Artemisia Auctions.

**E €306,000**

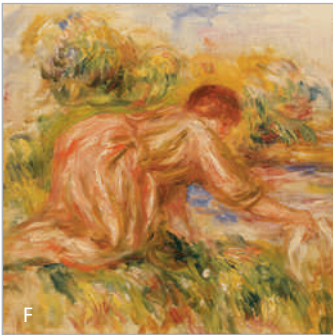
Henry Moret (1856-1913), "Les Chaumes en Guidel", oil on panel, signed and dated 1891, 55 x 100 cm.

La Baule, 20 August, Salorges Enchères auction house.

HD

Trade in modern paintings is still shared between New York, London and Paris, the speciality's Golden Triangle. The French capital may not boast the same earthshattering results of its rivals, but it remains firmly in the running, offering fine pieces every season. However, Impressionist paintings and major works are becoming increasingly scarce. So the sale in Paris last February of part of the collection of Gabriel Thomas - "the most important French collector of early 20th century paintings", according to art historian Fabienne Stahl - was a shot in the arm for collectors. The ten works previously owned by the businessman made €1,057,340 (Beaussant-Lefevre), with first place going to Maurice Denis, an artist who particularly appealed to Gabriel Thomas (he possessed nearly 120 of his works). As further proof that significant paintings sell well regardless of the sale venue, Mikhail Larionov's "Street in Moscow" (c. 1907-1909) fetched €864,000 in Lyon, a result that is now no. 8 in the artist's Top Ten. The painting, with its sumptuous Fauvist tones, was snapped up by a major Russian collector.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



**F €324,896**

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), "Lavandière",  
canvas signed on lower left. (Recanvased),  
29 x 34 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 21 May, Mathias, Baron Ribeyre  
& Associés, Farrando auction houses.

**G €864,000**

Mikhail Fedorovich Larionov (1881-1964), "Street in  
Moscow", 1907-1909, oil on canvas, 61.7 x 78 cm.  
Lyon, 24 February, De Bacque auction house.

G



# MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



HD

If there is one speciality where excellence is paramount, it is musical instruments. Collectors, often professionals and musicians, demand both technical perfection and top sound quality. Models must be in good condition as well as performing well. 2014 will go down as a good vintage, even if the mid-range sector suffered a little, with a veritable string of bids: a violin by Giuseppe Guarneri, who made no more than fifty instruments, was sold to the tune of €706,800. A dendrochronological test dated it to between 1705 and 1710: the Golden Age of violinmaking in Cremona. With this result, Vichy, which organises several specialist sales, confirmed its position in the international market. Paris also had some resounding successes, notably with a cello by Michele Platner, made in Rome around 1730-1735. The instrument already had a substantial estimate of €100,000, but bids finally crescendoed up to €456,250. It is probably a world record for Michele Platner, who supplied the Palazzo Pamphilj.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas

## A €84,320

Nicolas Dumont (active between 1675 and 1707). Harpsichord with two keyboards, first half of the 18th century, restored by Christopher Garner in 1784, resinous beech wood, mahogany and rosewood veneer, painted lid.

Paris, Drouot, 4 July, Art Richelieu auction house.

## B €136,400

Dominique Peccatte (1810-1874), Cello bow, signed, silver-mounted, 73.5 g.

Vichy, 10 -11 June, Vichy Enchères auction house.

## C €66,352

Becker miniature grand piano, 19th century, varnished later on every side with malachite and decorated with gilded bronze.

Paris, Drouot, 27 January, Massol auction house.

## D €706 800

Cremona, circa 1700-1705, violin by Giuseppe Guarnerius, called Giuseppe, son of Andrea, 357 mm.

Vichy, 4 December, Vichy Enchères auction house.

## E €80,080

Grand piano by Erard "from the Universal Exhibition", kingwood and kingwood veneer with metal frame bearing the number 73153, circa 1885, 101 x 217 x 146 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 11 December, FL Auction auction house.

## F €456,250

Michael Platner, circa 1730-1735.

Violoncello made in Rome, with label, l. 76,8 cm.

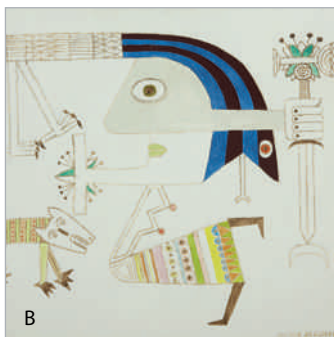
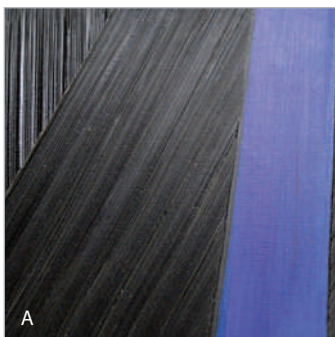
Paris, Drouot, 12 March, Oger - Blanchet auction house.





F

# CONTEMPORARY ART



**A €161,000**

Pierre Soulages (born in 1919), "Peinture", 29 May 1987, oil on canvas, countersigned, titled and dated "29-5-87" on reverse, 35 x 55 cm.

Toulouse, 30 October, Rémy Fournié auction house.

**B €193,200**

Victor Brauner (1903-1966), "Érotomagie préliminaire", 1948, oil on canvas, 72 x 92 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 26 March, Millon & Associés auction house.

**C €1,127,480**

Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985), "Tape à l'œil", gouache on paper, monogrammed and dated 1962, countersigned and dedicated on the reverse (on the frame), 50 x 67 cm.

Versailles, 14 December, Versailles Enchères auction house.

**D €515,680**

Martial Raysse (b. 1936), "Verte", oil, collage, xerography, sunglasses and powder puff on canvas, signed, titled and dated 1963 on the back on the frame, 32 x 22.5 cm.

Versailles, 6 July, Versailles Enchères auction house.

**E €107,600**

Peter Klasen (born 1935), "Le Bon Magique", 1965, oil and acrylic on canvas, 162 x 130 cm.

World record for the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 16 June, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.



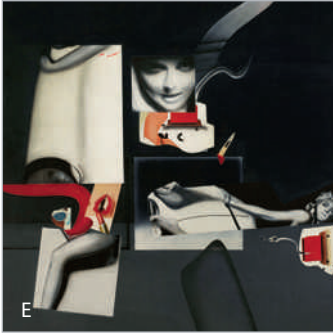
HD



D

Paris cannot lay claim to the work of the world's most expensive living artist, it's true. The capital is no match for London and New York, whose twice-yearly star events send the bid counter crazy. But there is nonetheless genuine enthusiasm for contemporary art, as witness the success of the FIAC, various fringe fairs and exhibitions and, of course, auctions. Almost every day, these offer handsome opportunities on the French market. World records are frequent, even if they fail to reach the heights of sales in New York and London. For example, 2014 saw "Le Bon Magique" (1965) reach pole position in Peter Klasen's records, as did the 1978 "Chromatique" for Michel Deverne. Bids of over a million have acclaimed works by Zao Wou-ki (particularly well represented this year), Jean Dubuffet, Alexander Calder and Nicolas de Staël.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



**F €620,540**

Zao Wou-ki (1921-2013), "25.08.74", oil on canvas, 60 x 81 cm.

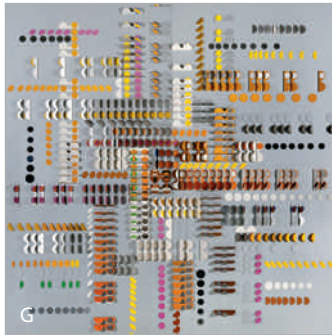
Paris, Drouot, 25 June, Piasa auction house.



**G €62,540**

Michel Deverne (1927-2012), "Chromatique", panel from 1978 in raw aluminium and polychrome lacquer, 250 x 242 cm.

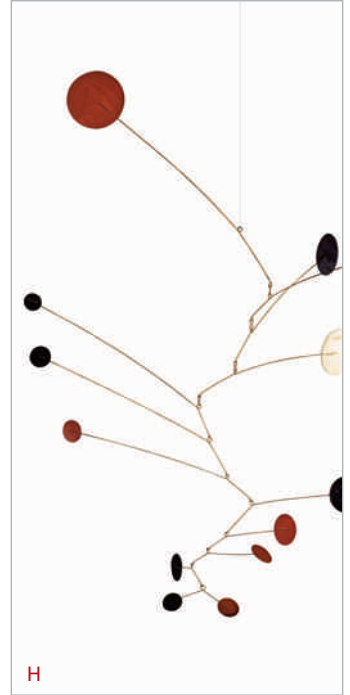
Paris, 25 June, Piasa Rive Gauche auction house.



**H €1,609,500**

Alexander Calder, "Sans titre", made circa 1947, painted metal and iron, 86 x 71 cm.

Paris, 3 December, Sotheby's .



**I €2,691,800**

Zao Wou-ki (1921-2013), "24.10.68", oil on canvas, 114 x 162 cm. French record for the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 18 April, Aponem auction house.





# HISTORICAL SOUVENIRS



A



D

## A €100,000

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), signed letter to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy, London, 16 November 1772, four pages in-folio written in English, etched portrait attached.

Paris, Drouot, 27 February, Daguerre auction house.

## B €39,060

Silver lid (Paris, 1809-1819) by silversmith Pierre Benoît Lorillon, used by Napoléon on Saint Helena. Inscription: "L'Empereur Napoléon. Mort à St Hélène 5 de. Mai 1821".

Paris, Drouot, 4 June, Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés auction house.

## C €46,250

Charles Christofle, part of a silver-metal service, commissioned by Louis-Philippe for Château d'Eu, 42 flat plates ("à filet" model) with the royal coat of arms. Paris, Drouot, 5 December, Delorme, Collin du Bodge auction house.



B



E

## D €104,500

Sèvres, 1838-1842. Service commissioned by Louis-Philippe, or his sister the Princess Adelaide of Orleans, at Château de Randan. (All of the 36 lots).

Paris, Drouot, 13 June, Delorme - Collin du Bodge auction house.

## E €705,999

Studio of Antonio Canova (1757-1822), "Colossal antique-style bust of Emperor Napoleon I", white Carrara marble on bardiglio marble base, engraved "Napoléon", total height: 209 cm.

Fontainebleau, 16 November, Osenat auction house, Binoche & Giquello auction house.

## F €250,000

The Directory era, sword of national honour from the Manufacture de Versailles attributed to General Hardy, engraved under crossguard "Boutet Directeur Artiste Manufacture de Versailles", blade engraved "Klingenthal".

Fontainebleau, 23 March, Osenat auction house.



C

## G €25,000

Pair of ivory knitting needles which belonged to Queen Marie-Antoinette.

Paris, Drouot, 28 April, Olivier Coutau-Bégarie auction house.

## H €1,880,000

Emperor Napoleon I's hat, traditional French-style form, black beaver adorned with a tricolour cockade (restored later), black silk braid and a fragment of a wooden button; l. 49, h. rear brim 20.7, h. front brim 15, interior diameter 56 cm.

Fontainebleau, 16 November, Osenat auction house, Binoche & Giquello auction house.

## I €437,500

Marriage contract of Bonaparte and Josephine, notarised agreement, authentic shipment signed by notaries Raguideau and Jousset, 1796, 3 pages 1/4 in-folio mounted in a wallet.

Rueil-Malmaison, 21 September, Osenat auction house.

## J €361,050

Empire period. White agate cameo with bust of Emperor Napoleon I shown with attributes of Caesar, in case, 10.3 x 7 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 9 April, Fraysse & Associés auction house.



F



G



H



I

HD

We might as well say it now: the historical souvenirs market is far from rational. A piece of history with little monetary value can truly fire collectors' imaginations. The price of this relic is due primarily to the fame of its owner, offering the buyer a measure of intimacy with the actual person – and a small part of him. Possessed and handled by a revered historical figure, the object has infinitely more value. This is a field in which passion trumps all; when a simple beaver hat can set off a salvo of bids. But the one here is not just any old hat: it is imperial, and belonged to Napoleon. It was salvaged by the veterinary surgeon of the imperial stables, Joseph Giraud, and was part of the collections of the Princes of Monaco sold last November at Fontainebleau. The hat garnered €1,880,000 in a sale that will remain a high-light of 2014 and the speciality.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas

J



# OBJETS D'ART



**A €262,500**

Beauvais, circa 1760. Set of three "basse-lisse" tapestries bearing the French arms, from the "Seconde tenture chinoise" series. "La Toilette" (359 x 345 cm), "La Foire" (358 x 637 cm) and "Le Repas" (370 x 498 cm).

Paris, Drouot, 3 December, Beaussant - Lefèvre auction house.

**B €80,600**

Europe. Pair of dogs made of enamelled porcelain, h. 53 cm, seated on stools with sculpted giltwood drapery, 20 x 43 x 28 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 4 June, Libert Damien auction house.



**C €74,400**

Italy, Trapani, late 16th/early 17th century, medallion of gilded brass, set with small sticks of coral, depicting a statue of Saint Christopher holding the baby Jesus, surrounded by angels, h. 30.7 cm.

Lyon, 15 November, De Baecque auction house.

**D €246,000**

Meissen, circa 1720-1730. Service in hard porcelain with polychrome decoration of animated Chinese scenes and hallmark of Augsburg from the 18th century for the vermeil. Coffee pot h. 19 cm, teapot h. 11 cm, chest 23.5 x 55 x 35 cm.

Lyon, 30 March, Hôtel des ventes Lyon, Presqu'île. Bérard - Péron - Schintgen auction houses.

HD

Along with furniture, objets d'art are the leading speciality in the French market. With its chateaux and historic residences, France has an abundant cultural heritage that regularly fuels auctions in both Paris and the regions. Among this profusion of "classic" pieces (sometimes mixing the wheat with the chaff), some remarkable items often "come out of the woodwork", like this Meissen hard porcelain pot-pourri jar, which fetched €622,500 at Drouot (Frayse). The catalogue indicated simply that this delicate object came from an enthusiast's collection – no more. A cast-iron pedigree is often as sure a guarantee of success as the artist's name. For example, a clock by the great André Charles Boulle and his workshop went all the way up to €685,500 at a sale in Paris (Kohn Marc-Arthur). There were several reasons for this. Firstly, the clock reproduces Michelangelo's famous figures of Day and Night from Giuliano de' Medici's tomb. Secondly, it was made by Louis XIV's royal cabinet-maker, no less. (We know from his inventory that he owned prints and wax models by the Florentine master.) Lastly, the clock has a stellar pedigree, as it belonged to Étienne Perrinet de Jars, Gentleman of the King's Privy Chamber to the Regent (the Duc d'Orléans).

**Stéphanie Perris-Delmas**





D

**E €685,500**

André-Charles Boulle and his workshop, Abraham Gilbert, "Le Jour et la Nuit" clock, circa 1720-1730, ebony, flakes, copper, gilded bronze with patina, h. 85 x 19 cm.

Paris, 25 March, Hôtel Le Bristol, Kohn Marc-Arthur auction house.



E



F

**F €236,550**

17th century, amber cup (total height: 12 cm) shaped like a seashell, nude woman sculpted in relief, vermeil base.

Paris, Drouot, 9 April, Fraysse & Associés auction house.

**G €622,500**

Louis XV period, circa 1748-1752, pot-pourri in hard Meissen porcelain containing around 80 flowers, mainly in soft Vincennes paste, stems of painted sheet metal, base of gilded bronze, h. 98 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 9 April, Fraysse & Associés auction house.



G

# DRAWINGS

© Succession Picasso, 2015



A



B



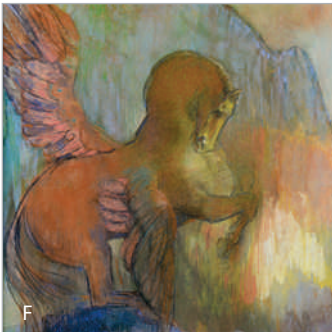
C



D



E



F

**A €142,600**

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), "Femme et amour", ink drawing, signed and dated "5. 1. 54", 31 x 23 cm.

Nice, 29 March, Boisgirard - Provence Côte d'Azur auction house.

**B €74,400**

Giovanni Francesco Romanelli (1610-1662), "L'Enlèvement des Sabines, La Contenance de Scipion", pair of gouache watercolours with lead pencil and sanguine, 12.5 x 41.5 cm. Pre-empted by the Musée du Louvre.

Paris, Drouot, 26 March, Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés auction house.

**C €130,200**

Anne-Louis Girodet (1767-1824), "Mountain landscape with a snake approaching an eagle pierced with an arrow", pen and brown ink, brown wash pierced with black pencil, 16 x 13.8 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 25 - 26 March, Auction Art Rémy Le Fur & Associés auction house.

**D €98,592**

Antoine Watteau (1684-1721), "Femme allongée sur un coude tenant un éventail", lead pencil and sanguine, 11.5 x 15.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 9 April, Ferri auction house.

**E €269,180**

Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), "Portrait of the sculptor Rodin", 1914, red chalk with white chalk highlights, 55 x 45 cm (by eye).

Paris, Drouot, 31 March, Bailly-Pommery & Voutier Associés auction house.

**F €488,028**

Odilon Redon (1840-1916), "Pegasus", pastel on paper, signed bottom right, 67.4 x 48.7 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 11 December, Joron Derem auction house.



**G €226,380**

Robert Longo (b. 1953), "Untitled (Zeus)", 2008, charcoal and ink on paper, 180 x 220 cm. French record for the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 25 June, Pierre Bergé & Associés auction house.

**H €174,560**

Fernando Botero (born in 1932), "Frutas sobre la mesa", 1968, charcoal on canvas, 184 x 171 cm.

Paris, Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild, 9 April, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.

**I €38,750**

Louis de Boullogne (1654-1733), "Académie d'homme allongé", black stone, white chalk highlights, 30 x 53 cm. World record for a drawing by the artist.

Paris, Drouot, 22 October, Beussant-Lefèvre auction house.



**J €372,000**

Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun (1755-1842), "Self-portrait in feathered hat", black chalk and stump, highlights in charcoal, circa 1780, 48 x 37 cm.

Deuil-la-Barre-Montmorency, 11 March 2014, Hôtel des ventes de la Vallée-de-Montmorency auction house.

HD

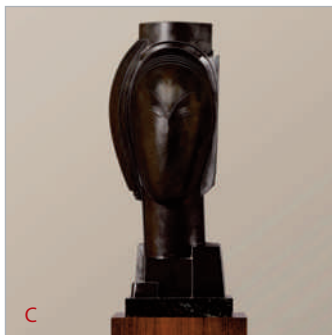


France's relationship with drawing is a longstanding love affair, rekindled every year by the famous Salon du Dessin. For more than twenty years, this event in March has drawn top professionals and collectors to Paris from all over the world. French auction houses make the most of this godsend by tailoring their programmes accordingly, highlighting graphic works in their sales. But they do not often devote a whole catalogue to the speciality. As fine drawings are increasingly difficult to find, especially ones by Old Masters, the market is seeking a second wind in the 19th century and the modern period, as even the 18th century has become a rarity. So a self-portrait by the beautiful Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun could hardly go unnoticed. Dated 1780, one year before the portrait of the artist now at the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, this fetched €372,000. We will also remember 2014 for the €488,028 that went to an fairytale "Pegasus" signed by Odilon Redon.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



# SCULPTURE



## A €1,033,200

Attributed to Massimiliano Soldani-Benzi (1656-1740). "Galatea and Neptune's Triumph", pair of terracotta vases, ewers, h. 73, l. 42 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 16 April, Philippe and Aline Marette Collection. Blanchet & Associés auction house.

## B €688,200

Auguste Rodin, "Groupe d'enfants", bronze model made before 1916, Alexis Rudier foundry, h. 35.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 6 June, Chayette - Cheval auction house.

## C €811,500

Gustave Miklos (1888-1967), unique patinated bronze sculpture, 1928, signed, dated and with foundry mark. The plaster model of this sculpture was given by Madame Gustave Miklos to the Musée de Brou, Bourg-en-Bresse, France.

Paris, 11 - 12 March, Artcurial & Sotheby's auction houses.

## D €2,461,000

Camille Claudel (1864-1943), "L'Aurore", circa 1893-1900, marble, signed on left side "C.Claudé", 35 x 29 x 30 cm. French record.

Paris, 6, avenue Hoche, 27 October, Cornette de Saint Cyr auction house.

## E €742,000

Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), "Faunesse à genoux", bronze prototype with green patina, made circa 1910-1912, Alexis Rudier foundry, after a design by the sculptor from 1887, 54.2 x 21.8 x 29.6 cm.

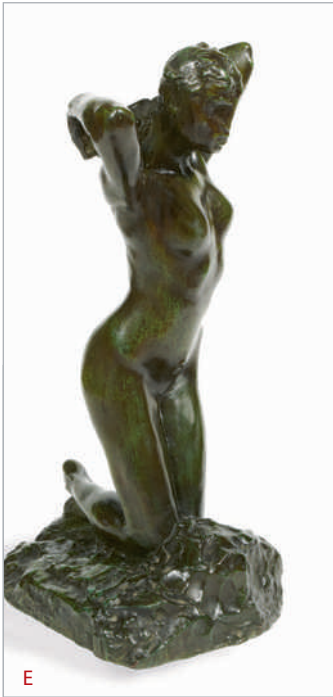
Paris, Drouot, 21 November, Millon & Associés auction house.

HD



This charming face of Aurora sculpted in marble by Camille Claudel inspired one of the top bids in France for the speciality. Knocked down for €2,461,000, it set a new French record, becoming the artist's second best global result, and the best for her marble work. This confirms enthusiasts' passion for 19th century sculpture: well represented in Paris, with Auguste Rodin in first place. His works usually attract six-figure bids. The €500,000 mark, passed only rarely, was crossed several times in 2014. For example, two terracotta vases attributed to Massimiliano Soldani-Benzi (1656-1740) were sold at Drouot for €1,033,200: a world record for this artist, who was one of the most famous casters of his time. More recently, a marble head attributed to the sculptor Jean de Liège, who also made the recumbent statues of Charles V and his wife Jeanne de Bourbon, went all the way up to €1,150,000 (Piasa). This delicate face is thought to be none other than that of the queen herself.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas



**F €1,069,500**

Rembrandt Bugatti (1885-1916), "Grand Giraffe tête Basse", dated 1911, bronze with dark green patina, 65 x 70 x 20 cm.  
Paris, 20 May, Christie's.



**G €1,150,000**

Carved marble head of a woman's recumbent statue. Ile-de-France, attributed to Jean de Liège or his workshop, c. 1370/1380, 23 x 21 x 19 cm.  
Paris, 11 December, Piasa auction house.

**H €496,540**

Christophe-Gabriel Allegrain (1710-1795), "Narcissus", marble, 54 x 52 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 18 June, Piasa auction house.



# AUTOMOBILES



**A €69,000**

Panhard dynamic coupé 1936, chassis n° 99869, engine n° 221672, French registration certificate. Chassieu, 9 November, Osenat auction house.

**B €3,696,000**

1955 Jaguar D-Type "Short Nose", six-cylinder 3.8 litre engine. Paris, Place Vauban, 5 February, RM Auctions.

**C €2,225,000**

Ferrari 275 GTB/4 Berlinetta from 1968, world record for this model. Paris, 6 February, Bonhams.

**D €2,550,000**

Ferrari 166 MM Barquette from 1953, built by Oblin. Paris, Porte de Versailles, 7 - 8 February, Artcurial auction house.

**E €277,000**

Bugatti type 49, Gangloff limousine, series no. 49132, motor no. 11, 1930. Toulouse, 14 June, Marc Labarbe auction house.

**F €1,006,720**

Ferrari Enzo, 66 cv tax rating, engine size 5,998 cm<sup>3</sup>, CI bodywork, 1,439 km, red leather interior. Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois, 14 February, SCP Martin du Nord - de Bouvet auction house.

HD



E

In February, Paris becomes the capital of magnificent automobiles, with several collectors' car auctions organised during the famous "Rétromobile" show. Here, the French auction house Artcurial stages one of its most impressive sales in the speciality: last year's made a total of €29M, with €2,550,000 for one Ferrari 166 MM. The English company Bonhams schedules its only Parisian sale of the year during the event. And last year, RM Auctions from Canada joined in the festivities for the first time: their 1955 Jaguar D-Type "Short Nose" took first place with €3,696,000. As a result, they will be at the starting line in 2015. . .

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas





F

# ASIAN ART



A

HD



B



C

## A €506,250

Tibet, 16th century. Gilded bronze sculpture showing Hayagriva standing on human forms lying on lotus flowers, embracing Çakti in yab-yum, H. 33 cm.  
Paris, Drouot, 24 October, Ader auction house.

## B €1,896,000

Wang Hui (1632 -1717), two paintings from roll n° 6 of Emperor Kangxi Nanxun Tu's tour of inspection in the South. 68 x 328 cm and 68 x 258 cm (detail).  
Bordeaux, 8 March, Alain Briscadieu auction house.

D

## C €1.6M

Square nephrite seal surmounted by two entwined dragons. On the reverse, the inscription in Zhuanshu (Chun Ou Zhai), "the ploughing office in spring".  
China, Qianlong period (1736-1795), 8.3 x 10.3 x 10.3 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 19 November, Beausant - Lefevre auction house.

## D €2,135,000

China, Qianlong period (1736-1795), vase in "Tianqiuping" form, porcelain with underglaze decoration in blue and copper red, marked on the underside of the base with Qianlong's 6-character stamp in Zhuanshu, h. 49.5 cm.

Saint-Étienne, 19 June, Hôtel des Ventes du Marais auction house.

## E €2,691,800

Statue of Amitayus in gilded bronze, China, Kangxi period (1662-1722), h. 56 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 11 December, Joron-Derem auction house.

## F €1,860,000

China, Qianlong period (1736-1795), steatite seal, negative-carved inscription in zhuanshu on the back, "Suo Bao Wei Xian", carved with nine dragons pursuing the sacred pearl.

Paris, Drouot, 16 June, Tessier & Sarrou & Associés auction house.

## G €373,500

White jade perfume burner with lotus flower decoration on the lid, crowned with a chimaera playing with a ball, 19th century. 12 x 15 x 8.5 cm.

Paris, Drouot, 9 April 2014, Fraysse & Associés auction house.

## H €1,098,000

Kingdom of Dali, China, 12th-13th century. Statuette of Buddha in gilt bronze, seated in the 'padmasana' position, the hands in the 'bhumisparsa mudra' position, h. 28 cm.

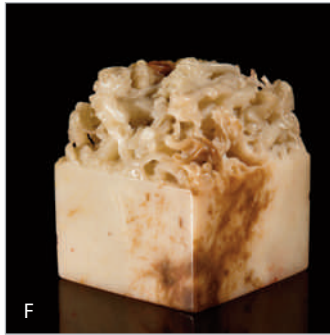
Paris, Drouot, 23 May, Doutrebente auction house.

## I €1,750,000

China, Song period (960 - 1279). Buddha seated in rajalilasana, a position known as "regal repose", wood with traces of polychrome. H. 100 cm.

Provenance: ex Wannieck collection.

Paris, Drouot, 19 March, Caudron auction house.



The French market for Asian and especially Chinese art is extremely rosy, buoyed up by ancient provenances and a policy of attractive estimates. France has remained a stronghold, as is confirmed by Christie's new strategy of prioritising Paris for its Asian sales. Nevertheless, 2014's results are no match for the soaring prices recorded in 2011 and 2012, years during which "The Grand Review IV", a painting from the Qianlong period, went for €22,057,760 (Toulouse), while the "Zhigongtu" album fetched €7,806,960 at Drouot. Buyers have grown more selective and the offering is less substantial, but results are still impressive: sales at Drouot dedicated to Asian art totalled €22M in 2014, including €9.2 M alone during the Asia Week ending the season. This featured a bronze Amitayus from the Kangxi period that inspired a bid of two million, after a high estimate of €200,000 (Joron-Derem). This result proves buyers' appetite for Buddhist statuary, a niche that attracted some handsome bids, such as this Buddha in the "royal ease" pose from the Song period. Sold for €1,750,000, it had an excellent provenance, as it came from the Wannieck collection. Porcelain is also re-emerging as a trend: for example, €2,170,000 went to a meiping vase with a Qianlong zhuan shu mark of doubtful authenticity (Tessier & Sarrou).

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas





Floris Gerritsz, Van Schooten  
(Haarlem, 1585-1655), "Still life  
representing various fruits on  
Chinese Wan-li plates, a roemer, a  
loaf of bread and a knife on a  
table", oil on panel, 58.5 x 99 cm,  
signed with monogram FVS lower  
right. Jan Muller Antiques.  
BRAFA 2015.



# MAGAZINE





# BRAFA, a spirited sixty

The snow won't stand a chance. The BRAFA has enough passion to conquer the harshest Brussels winter and warm the hearts of any shivering collector. Over the years, its friendly ambiance has become as attractive as the prices at its stands, which are far more affordable than those of its prestigious European competitors, the Maastricht TEFAF and the Paris Biennale des Antiquaires. The BRAFA is the oldest (and most modest) of the three. It is celebrating 60 winters in 2015 with an anniversary edition (from 24 January to 1 February) that could beat its 2014 record of 55,000 visitors. A sprightly sexagenarian, reconciling a steady temperament (as befits its age) with the spontaneity of a young film star. After opening out to the international scene in 1995, it is "taking its time", as its director of 25 years, Beatrix Bourdon, repeats like a mantra. The fair has no undue pretensions to expand; the number of participants has stabilised since 2006 (126 in the 2015 edition) and the selection is Eurocentric. But this in no way reduces its appeal for foreign collectors (who are "increasingly numerous", says its happy director), and it still welcomes new galleries: 12 more this time around.

The first arrivals are from Belgium (Gallery Desmet, Porfirius), France (François Léage, Alexis Lartigue, La Pendulerie, Clara Scremini Gallery, Alexis Pentcheff), Switzerland (Opera Gallery), Germany (Die Galerie), Holland (Douwes Fine Art, Frans Jacobs Fine Art) and the UK (Stern Pissarro Gallery). They were selected for their "quality and reliability", another mantra tirelessly repeated backstage at the BRAFA. "We have worked a great deal on the application process, particularly authentications", says Tobias Desmet from Brussels, who recently joined his father's firm after training with an antiques dealer in New York. Specialising in sculpture and classic objets d'art, father and son will be offering a Renaissance Virgin and Child relief attributed to the workshop of the Tuscan artist Gregorio di Lorenzo, and a Laocoon in attractively patinated bronze. Another recruit in 2015 is François Léage from Paris, a regular at the Biennale des Antiquaires and the ultimate specialist in French 18th century furniture. He will be opening his first stand in Belgium with a mahogany Louis XVI commode stamped by the celebrated cabinetmakers Weisweiler and Riesener, very similar to the one in the Musée Carnavalet in Paris. Here, collaborations can start up or develop





**Paul Delvaux**, "Le Rideau rouge", 1934, oil on canvas, 190 x 120.5 cm. Up for silent auction at the stand of Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke. Reserve price: €250,000.

PAUL DELVAUX  
1934


Standing figure, wood with crusted patina, Igala people, Nigeria.  
Bernard Dulon Gallery.



further. "Many exhibitors come to the fair every year, proving that they are happy in terms of sales," says Beatrix Bourdon. BRAFA's history demonstrates that high standards and patience pay off, especially when they go hand in hand with a few bold moves (strip cartoon galleries are welcome) and a touch of Belgian humour, present this year at Petits-Papiers with Geluck's "Tribute to Munch".

### A PhD in Eclecticism

Maintaining the right balance between the disciplines is still the number one priority for the BRAFA. The Belgian fair has made non-specialisation its speciality, and eclecticism its target. In addition, exhibitors are not split into sectors but mingled together to encourage movement between the historical periods. The ethnic arts and archaeology (which between them have certainly clocked up the finest sales in the past decade) rub shoulders with numismatology, jewellery, mediaeval art and more traditional sectors like porcelain. (The latter will be found resisting the market's global modernisation at the stand of the Brussels gallery Jean Lemaire.) A head of Serapis in lapis lazuli (Phoenix Ancient Art) dialogues with an Igala statue from Nigeria (Bernard Dulon gallery); while a rare Etruscan-style necklace by Carlo and Arthur Giuliano (Epoque Fine Jewels) jostles for space with the 20th-century designer pieces of the Marcilhac Gallery. Every effort is made for collectors (known to be particularly knowledgeable and curious here) to open their fields to further possibilities. The sentimental BRAFA believes in love at first sight. It is wary of trends, without opposing fundamental change. For the last ten or so years, it has gradually been welcoming modern and contemporary art galleries; there will be around 30 in 2015. Inspired by Andy Warhol's "Factory", the entrance hall with its 1,500 light bulbs by Volume Architecture immediately sets the fair on the path to the 20th century. Modernity, with restrained and classic models, devotes the lion's share to the Paris School (Serge Poliakoff at Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, Marc Chagall at Stern Picasso, and Soulages at Opéra Gallery), and to still lifes and portraits. At the Galerie des Modernes stand, Marie Laurencin's "Young Girl with Flowers" recalls Boucher's



Etruscan-style necklace  
by Carlo and Arthur Giuliano  
London, second half  
of the 19th century.  
Epoque Fine Jewels.

faces, and the irony of Pop Art is softened in a series of pencil drawings by Warhol (including a portrait signed by the artist, for once). Even contemporary art seems keen to maintain a link with the past at Guy Pieters (project for a mastaba by Christo) and at the Manufacture de Sèvres stand (a porcelain cushion delicately glazed in Madame de Pompadour style by the American ceramist Kristin McKirdy). Sales promise well for the modern section, without threatening those of Old Masters, for which Beatrix Broudon predicts a powerful comeback in 2015.

### The flat country in relief

An anniversary always involves self-reflection. For its 60th birthday, the BRAFA is putting the spotlight on Belgium and its great collectors. Through the intermediary of the King Baudouin Foundation, they are invited to present a selection of works from all periods and disciplines, many being new on the market. We will discover pieces by Van Dyck, Rubens, and Sam Francis. "Le Rideau rouge", an oil on canvas by Paul Delvaux belonging to the collectors

Nicole and Pierre Ghène, will be put up for silent auction at the stand of Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, Chairman of the BRAFA. Dating from 1934, this portrait, nearly 2 metres high, of a woman with a distant gaze evokes the slender figures of Modigliani. Throughout the fair, visitors will be free to bid, starting at a reserve price of €250,000. All the proceeds from the sale will be donated to charity. Naturally, we will find major exponents of Belgian art at exhibitors' stands: Jan Brueghel at Klaas Muller, James Ensor and Alechinsky Pierre at Jamar Gallery, Gustave De Smet and Emile Claus at Francis Maere Fine Arts, and Jan Fabre at Guy Pieters. Meanwhile, the BRAFA Art Talks, a cycle launched in 2014, will devote one session to the restoration of Jan Van Eyck's "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb", which has temporarily left St Bavo's Cathedral for a facelift at the Ghent Musée des Beaux-arts. The Belgians are certainly highly-rated. This is an established fact, and no snow can change that.

Céline Piettre

BRAFA Art Fair, Brussels, 24 January 2014 to 1 February 2015.

[www.brafa.be](http://www.brafa.be)

W



# Jacqueline Delubac, art lover

At the entrance, a graceful veiled face fixes visitors with a determined eye. It belongs to Jacqueline Delubac, known better as Sacha Guitry's third wife, an actress of stage and screen, a stylish Parisian woman and a heart-throb of post-war Paris than as a collector of modern masterpieces. Salima Hellal, curator and conservationist in the museum's Objets d'Art department, unveils the many facets of this *grande dame*, who played out her life under the spotlights for several decades. Act 1, 1926: the young girl from Lyon, aged 19, went to Paris with her mother. She dreamed of being a dancer, but ended up as an actress, hired by Guitry, whom she married in 1935 and divorced in 1939. During her years with the playwright, she refined her love of beautiful things in the private mansion of her

husband's father, Lucien Guitry, at 18 rue Élisée-Reclus. "Cézanne, Renoir, Monet, Fantin-Latour and Seurat all rubbed shoulders with each other," she wrote of the countless masters she encountered there. Act 2, the 1940s: free once again, she became a film star. She used her first fees to buy drawings by Aristide Maillol and later, in 1944, a painting by Raoul Dufy ("L'Atelier aux raisins", 1942). She did not buy in great quantity, but always with an eye for high quality. In 1950, the "most elegant woman in Paris", who was always travelling and acting, gave up her career so that she could enjoy a private life "which I never had time for during these years of touring." She devoted herself to her collection, adding to it with a work by Pierre Bonnard from 1921, "Poisson sur une assiette" (displayed to dazzling effect in the first room). At this time, she was already close to Myran Eknayan, a diamond merchant and great art enthusiast, and married him in 1981, without ever living with him. While his preference was for more classical compositions, Jacqueline focused on modernity. Guided by her sure eye, she bought herself a "Composition" by Serge Poliakoff in 1955, at a time when "everyone

"Jacqueline Delubac: le choix de la modernité. Rodin, Lam, Picasso, Bacon", Musée des Beaux-Arts, 20, place des Terreaux, 69001 Lyon. Until 16 February 2015. [www.mba-lyon.fr](http://www.mba-lyon.fr)

**Jacqueline Delubac**  
wearing a Pierre Cardin dress,  
1922, digital print from the  
negative, 95 x 70 cm.  
Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon.





**Fernand Léger** (1881-1955),  
"Les deux femmes au bouquet",  
1921, oil on canvas, Musée des  
Beaux-Arts, Lyon.



laughed at me", and notably some pieces by Jean Fautrier, Victor Brauner and Wifredo Lam, as well as the stunning "Study for a Bullfight no. 2" by Francis Bacon (1969), the elegant "T. 1955-1953" by Hans Hartung (1955), and a few works by Picasso including "Femme à la plage" from 1937. Final act, 1985: after her second husband's death, Jacqueline Delubac inherited his fortune and some major paintings from the second half of the 19th century, such as the central fragment of Claude Monet's "Déjeuner sur l'herbe" (now at the Musée d'Orsay). In 1993, she began to consider bequeathing all her treasures. After her sudden death in 1997, part of her furniture was dispersed at Drouot, along with the Delubac-Eknayan collection (Baron & Ribeyre, March 1998 see following pages). In the same year, thirty-five paintings and three Rodin sculptures entered the Lyon Musée des Beaux-Arts, becoming the first French Impressionist collection outside the capital. Today, the Rhône museum invites us to explore the home of this great celebrity, who managed her image with such care, through a skilful staging of Delubac's collection alongside those of Sacha Guitry and Myran Eknayan, together with several documents, personal effects and film excerpts. The partial reconstruction of the entrance to her Quai d'Orsay apartment sets the tone for her deliberately quirky choices: a "Verre d'eau V (1967)" by Jean Dubuffet sits between two bronze 18th century firedogs, positioned near two chairs by Ruth Francken and Bacon's "Carcass of Meat and Bird of Prey" (1980). Further on, the Guitry family's inner sanctum appears resolutely artistic and old-fashioned, as witness Rodin's "Iris", messenger of the gods. Then there is the "Red Room", home to part of Myran Eknayan's corpus. Finally, after inviting us into her salon and dining room, both full of large-scale works, the incomparable silhouette draws us into her bedchamber, revealing a small section of her dressing room, bequeathed to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. While one can at times feel a little lost in this deluge of masterpieces, which belonged to three different owners, the collection as a whole gives us a detailed view of the intimate, glamorous, artistic world of an exceptional woman with faultless taste. **Virginie Chuimer**



© Estate of Francis Bacon/All rights reserved/ADAGP, Paris 2015 - Image © Lyon MBA - Photo: RMN/René-Gabriel Ojéda

**Francis Bacon (1909-1992), "Study for a Bullfight no. 2", 1969, oil on canvas, 198.3 x 147.5 cm. Jacqueline Delubac legacy, 1997. Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon.**

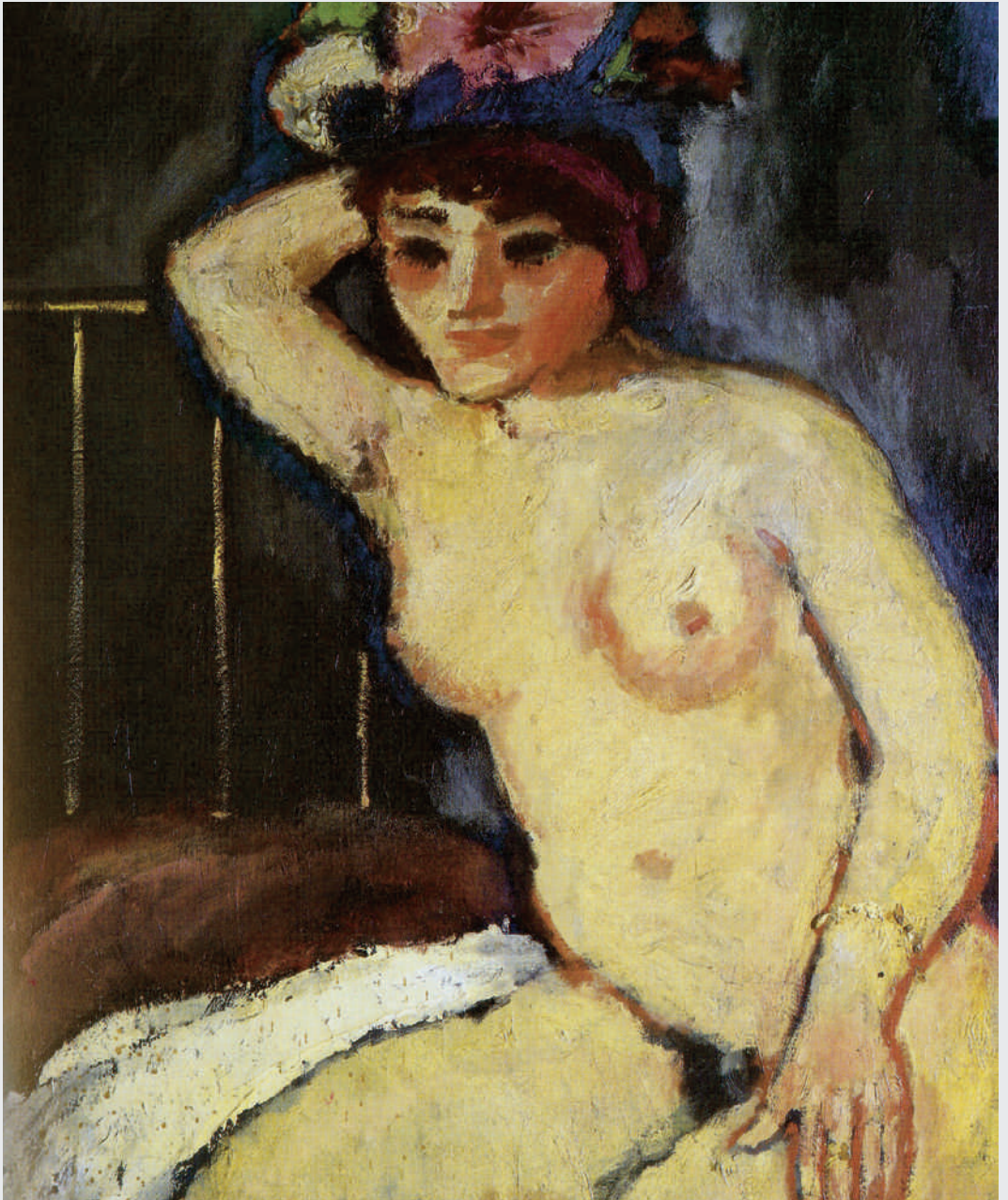
# Jacqueline Delubac Collection: FF30 million at Drouot-Montaigne

On 16 March 1998, a keen audience flocked to the Théâtre des Champs Elysées on the Avenue Montaigne. But the performance in question was neither a comedy nor a tragedy, even if the star of the show was none other than Jacqueline Delubac, the famous actress and third wife of Sacha Guitry. That evening, a mingled crowd of collectors, dealers and the simply curious had come for the sale of the actress' private collection. An elegant socialite, Jacqueline was also a great collector, making her first purchases after

separating from Guitry in 1939. In 1950, she gave up her career to focus on her personal life and devote herself to one of her passions: art – an interest she shared with her new partner, the diamond merchant Myran Eknayan. In 1983, she gave some of her treasures to the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, including Impressionist paintings by Monet, Manet, Renoir and Degas, as well as works by Bonnard, Vuillard, Léger, Braque, Picasso, Miró and Bacon, which were not displayed until 1998, after the collector's sudden death. The fifty-odd paintings and furniture items on sale at Drouot Montaigne that evening with Maitres Baron & Ribeyre were a great success, with 100% of the lots sold. The sensuality of the female body evoked in Kees Van Dongen's 1908 "Lit de la bonne" (*photo*) fanned the ardour of collectors, finally going for FF8,314,100 (equivalent to €1,612,356 today). "Fathma" by Georges Rouault garnered FF2,771,350 (€537,449), five times its estimate, while "Femme à l'éventail", a self-portrait by Marie Laurencin, went for FF886,830 (€171,983). In the actress' Parisian apartment at 83 Quai d'Orsay, modern paintings mixed with 18th-century furniture and objets d'art. One enthusiast put up FF3,436,000 for a pair of blue Chinese porcelain vases with gilt bronze mountings. In keeping with expectations, four matching armchairs by Cresson (*photo*), part of a set commissioned for the Château d'Abondant in Eure-et-Loire (now in the Louvre), inspired a bid of FF2,050,000. With total takings of FF30 million, the Delubac collection certainly made a splash in this season of Parisian sales.

Stéphanie Perris-Delmas







# Luxury hotels at auction

The new requirements for the "luxury hotel" label, laid down four years ago, have pushed the top hotels into an impressive race for five-star status. To maintain their ranking, France's thirteen luxury hotels (one in Biarritz, three in Courchevel, five in Paris, one in Ramatuelle, one in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, two in Saint Tropez) don't do things by halves! Over the past few years, several of them have undertaken renovation work on a gigantic scale, often preceded by auctions of all or part of their contents.

## There's nothing like a little excess. . .

This type of event, which is relatively rare given the few hotels concerned, belongs to the small category of sales that make history. As soon as they are made official, announcements of the dispersion of interiors of legendary hotels like the Crillon or the Lutetia throw even the most phlegmatic spirits into a flutter. . . For as well as designer furniture and monogrammed china, there are always a few treasures that bidders are sure to fight over. If you add the "luxury hotel"

effect, unique among its kind, it is easy to see why these sales sometimes have the memorabilia touch. And for hotel regulars and idlers alike, it is above all an unlooked-for chance to take home some of the splendid history of these places that have such a hold on their imaginations. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, auction houses have to deal with real logistical problems, because for most hotels, it's business as usual right up to the last minute! While selling in situ means considerable savings on transport and storage costs, the preparation phase, devoted to making inventories and catalogues of the thousands of lots presented, is very short and intense. For hotels selling

## KEY FIGURE

# 100

In millions of euros, this is the vast budget for the renovation of the Hôtel Lutetia.



Interior of the Hôtel Lotti before its furniture was put up for sale with the auction house Villanfray & Associés in May 2014.



View of the Eiffel suite of the Hôtel Lutetia, designed by sculptor-designer Guillaume Piéchaud (b. 1968), before its furniture was put up for sale with the auction house Pierre Bergé & Associés and Metayer in May 2014.





their objects, and thus part of their memory, there is an enormous goal in sight: to make a clean sweep and be reborn in even greater glory, so as to attract premium tourists and businessmen – particularly those of the new Eldorados, accustomed to an avalanche of refinement and luxury in every corner of the world. If dressing rooms prove too small for the wealthy Gulf families with their dozens of trunks, then they'll be enlarged! If a bathroom doesn't have a phone, then a phone will be installed! Like the two hundred criteria a hotel has to meet to keep its five stars, luxury hotel auctions are always synonymous with excess.

### Overdose bids

In this area, it is not uncommon for auctioneers to sell every last item, as in June 2007 with the Trianon Palace hotel sale in Versailles. Artcurial, in charge of the sale, sold 100% of the 1,800 lots at double their estimates for a total of nearly €1M. A prelude to the memorable Crillon sale in April 2013, which offered 3,500 lots at a low estimate of €2.5M. Everything had to go: furniture, lighting, silverware, porcelain and tapestries alike! In the end, the hotel in the Place de la Concorde garnered nearly €6M, including €334,000 for the wine alone (estimated at no more than €134,000). And there were some dazzling surprises, like the restaurant sign, estimated at €200-€300, which went for €26,000. The concierge's wall of pigeonholes for keys was snapped up for €8,500 – ten times its estimate. And of course, there was the legendary bar counter by the sculptor César, acquired for €324,800: 25 times its high estimate! Six months later, the auction house of the Rond-Point des Champs-Élysées repeated the exploit with the Plaza Athénée sale, doubling estimates with a total of €1.4 million.

### History under the hammer

One of the first top Paris hotels to have crossed the Rubicon was none other than the Royal Monceau in June 2008. During the preview exhibition, nearly 10,000 visitors came to admire the 2,300 lots, which



View of the Royal Monceau lobby  
(auction house Cornette de Saint-Cyr, June 2008).

were finally sold for €3.35M by the Cornette de Saint-Cyr auction house. You needed €70,000 for a marble "table de milieu" placed at the hotel entrance, and €1,100 to €2,000 for bathroom linen with the "RM" (Royal Monceau) monogram, estimated at between €100 and €300. The hotel in the Avenue Hoche is certainly a piece of history in itself. Among other things, it served as Eisenhower's headquarters in 1945 and for a few months hosted Michel Polnareff, who wrote his hit song "Marylou" there, in tribute to a switchboard operator working at reception. In May this year, the dispersion of the furniture and part of

the art collections of the Hôtel Lutetia made quite a splash as well. Requisitioned by the Germans during the Occupation, the hotel accommodated deportees from the death camps after the Liberation. In the Thirties, the Rive Gauche luxury hotel hosted a string of artists and intellectuals from a wide range of backgrounds, including Josephine Baker, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and André Gide. The sale was staged by two auction houses joining forces for the occasion, Pierre Bergé & Associés and Metayer, and the 4,700-odd lots totalled €2.7M. A few days later, the hotel closed for renovation work lasting several months. Apart from the designer furniture, crockery and wall lamps, contemporary art collectors could treat themselves to a "Torse" by César, a large "Fleur" by Takis and decoration collections by Guillaume Piéchaud and Philippe Hiquily, which each fitted out a suite. At the same time, Villanfray & Associés auctioned all the furniture from the Hôtel Lotti in Rue de Castiglione (described by the auctioneer as "the most discrete of the great luxury hotels"), with estimates ranging from €10 to €10,000. Opened in 1910 on the initiative of the Duke of Westminster, weary of the flashy glitter of top luxury hotels, the establishment hosted all the British aristocracy visiting Paris for years on end. For Maître Musnier, the auction house's partner, "this sale was a marvellous experience."

### Rediscovery of a treasure

But renovating a luxury hotel does not always mean selling everything – as witnesses the Ritz, in the Place Vendôme, which closed for 27 months in 2012 for a huge luxury facelift. Its owner, Mohammed Al Fayed, did not think it necessary to stage a huge sale to free up space. On the other hand, when an inventory was made in 2013, a painting that no-one had noticed until then was rediscovered in the suite once occupied by Coco Chanel: a picture by Charles Le Brun, painter to Louis XIV, which was sold for €1.44M by Christie's Paris in April 2013 (after a low estimate of €300,000)! The provenance of this youthful work certainly played a significant role. After all, nothing is more vibrant than a memory... **Dimitri Joannidès**





View of the Royal Monceau's restaurant (auction house Cornette de Saint-Cyr, June 2008).



# Design MVW

**P**aris, September 2014... Subscribers to Designerbox discovered the object of the month: a sculptural bud vase called Jin Shi (Golden Stone), created by a Shanghai-based agency, Design MVW, run by French architect Virginie Moriette and Chinese designer/interior designer Xu Ming. The object – a simple minimalist gilt metal tube with a bend in it standing on a marble plaque – draws on the tradition of the Middle Kingdom. According to Bénédicte Colpin, cofounder of Designerbox, "the project involves economy of means and scale, which forces designers to go straight to the essential. This results in objects with an "obvious" quality. For Xu Ming, it involves working with nature, and a relationship with

tradition. His aim is to push this search for identity to its limits, moving away from stereotypes in a very fundamental way." In October, Christie's staged its first contemporary Chinese design sale in Shanghai. The twenty lots on offer (all with the label of the top luxury local brand Shang Xia, under the aegis of Hermès), were all sold, for a total of \$3.5M. "It'll take a little time before we can persuade the Chinese to buy Jean Prouvé!" says Xu Ming, going on to say, "They are very keen on the precious nature of materials. This forces us to focus on the natural aspect." One of the most recent achievements of Design MVW illustrates this point: the new Shanghai Tang Hong Kong store, the high-end clothing brand's largest, created by David Tang in 1994 and owned by the Swiss group Richemont since 1998. "Here, all is order and beauty, luxury, calm and voluptuous ease," to quote the poet Baudelaire. Taking inspiration from the Art Deco architecture of the Oriental Pearl Tower, we accentuated it by making its special local features contemporary; particularly by introducing Mandarin characters like shu, meaning 'longevity.' The Chinese

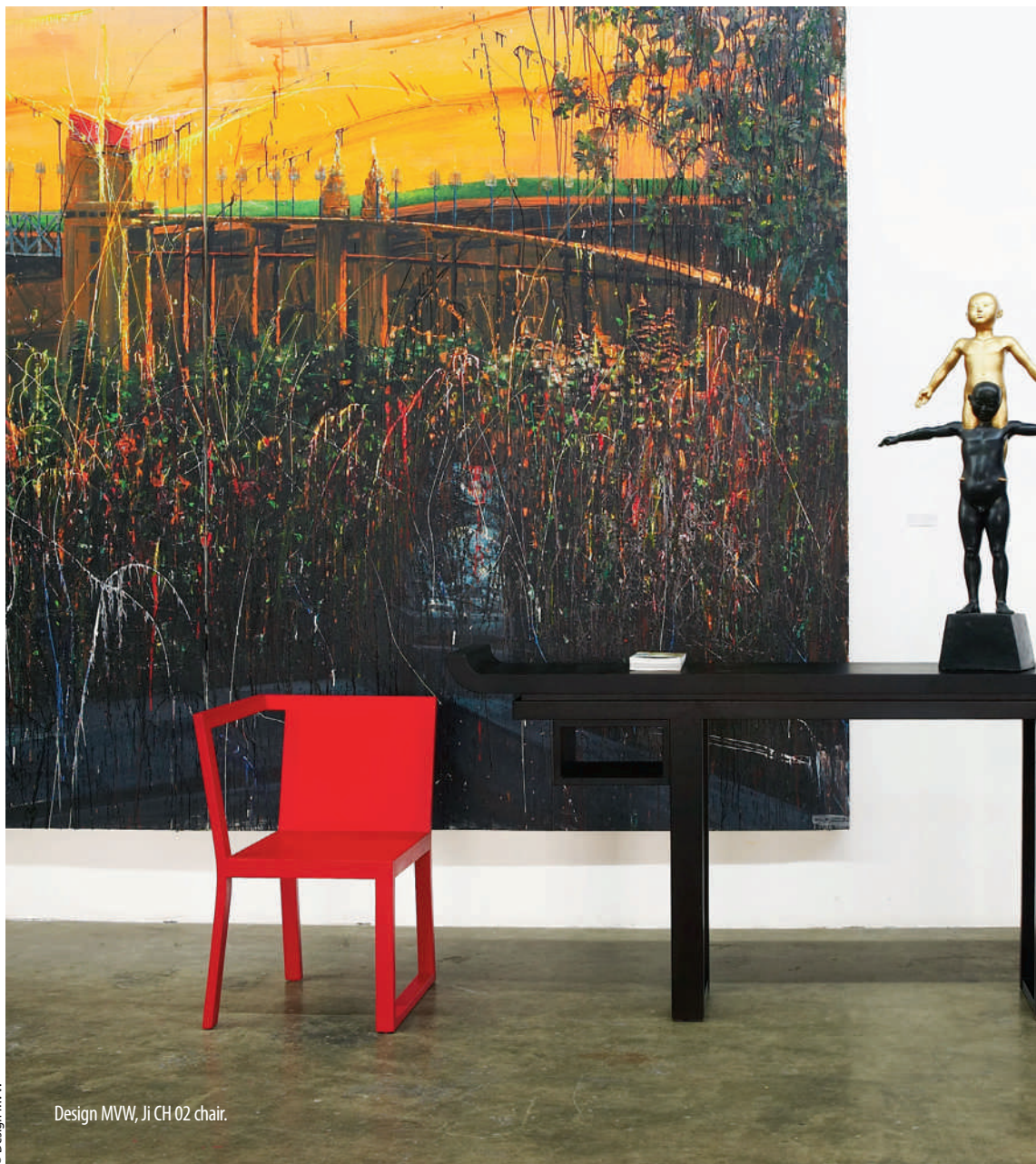
Design MVW, no 322, Xingguo Road,  
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[www.design-mvw.com](http://www.design-mvw.com)

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Design MWW, Ji CH 01 chair.



Design MVW, Ji CH 02 chair.





Paul Smith constructed part of his image by concealing bright colours within clothes. A mannerism repeated and codified in the interior design – fuchsia for women, orange for men – but relegated to the sides of alcoves and display cases, so as not to detract from the models. Virginie and Ming are accustomed to creating an entire interior, as they did with their apartment. "That's when we realised that there was a lot missing in the Chinese market in terms of design. So we designed everything, right down to the door handles." There is at least one reason for this: customs duty on imports makes Western designer objects prohibitively expensive in China. In addition, there is a lack of culture in this area, where everything has to be built up from scratch with customers and suppliers alike. As regards suppliers, Ming says, "It's very complicated, because you need to explain and check everything, avoiding approximations, not to mention copies... Often, Chinese companies produce thousands of copies of models already rubber-stamped by the markets, without taking any risks. So we have to be really familiar with techniques and materials, give precise details for the entire manufacturing process, and be sure to factor in production costs." It is rare for more than a thousand Design MVW pieces to be produced; the largest series are intended for offices and hotels.

### Haute couture and ready-to-wear

To place an order, buyers have only one option: to go to the company's showroom in Shanghai. You can then buy a piece of furniture or an object on show, or choose a custom-made item. This is a very 'fashion-centric' concept halfway between haute couture and ready-to-wear, where the difference between the two depends on the number of orders, like the children's bunk beds, which sell like hot cakes. The world of kids is a decided inspiration for these designers: the children's clothes department in the Shanghai



Design MVW, for Designerbox no 15,  
Jin Shi bud vase.

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Tang store plays on a disruption of scale to evoke Alice in Wonderland, with holes for parents to communicate through. In China, furniture traditionally suffers from a very statutory image: "Look at Ming chairs: they're not comfortable; they force you to sit up very straight, in a position reflecting a scholar's status. Things are less codified nowadays, of course, but furniture is always a form of social representation," says the designer. His work thus focuses not only on form but also on needs, seeking ways to make everyday life in China more pleasant. The Louis Ming armchair, for example, combines the aesthetic of chairs from the famous dynasty with the comforting embrace of Louis XV furniture. Meanwhile, the Ji-Ch 01 chair streamlines its width so that even more guests can be seated around the table, while preserving their comfort. The asceticism of its form is counterbalanced by colours and motifs evoking the luxurious silk a Chinese robe. The asymmetrical Ji-Ch 02 chair paradoxically highlights the balance between the seat and the back: its structure, evoking the radicalism of De Stijl, counters the bourgeois desire to own a pair of them. We can also see an echo in it of the Yin and Yang of Chinese philosophy. Meanwhile, the various models of the "Bu Shou Carpet", based on the observation that carpets are partly concealed by items of furniture, curve sinuously around their feet, while their name echoes the strokes of Chinese characters (bu shou) which can be combined in various ways to make a new word. Minimalist consoles recycle the bird's tail profile of the timeless Ming tables. Though Design MVW, founded in 2006, has not yet celebrated its tenth anniversary, its limited editions are already providing rich pickings for Chinese auction houses (particularly Shanghai Hosane). A form of recognition... "The Chinese see art primarily as an investment, which means that prices go up even if pieces aren't necessarily of very high quality," says Ming. While it is flattering to see his chairs in private museums, the designer regrets that visitors are not allowed to sit on them. French people living in China now buy his pieces, and some bring them back to France. So, when will they make it to Paris? One day, perhaps...

Sylvain Alliod

Design MVW, bed.





**GAZETTE DROUOT**

**DROUOT**