

Post-sale press release

Geneva, 25 May 2010

Sales at Koller Geneva 19/20 May 2010

Art Nouveau & Art Deco – Design – Paintings and Sculpture – Photographs – Books – Wine

Mid-range market also shines at Koller Auctions in Geneva

All sectors boasted successful sales in Koller Geneva's spring auctions of 20th/21st century art, with prices realized well exceeding the low estimates. "This sale is a good illustration of the fact that mid-range works are also doing quite well in today's auction market," said Cyril Koller, director of Koller Auctions. "In an auction with modestly estimated works – all below CHF 40 000 (EUR 28 000) – the buy-in rate was low, and the total sold exceeded 1.3 million Swiss francs. When the quality is high and the work has a good provenance, we are often seeing up to ten bidders for the same lot."

Art Nouveau and Art Deco

19 May 2010

A tactile, stylized bronze by celebrated Art Nouveau artist Franz von Stuck (lot 115) headed the spring Art Nouveau – Art Deco auction at Koller Geneva. Despite having lost a part of her lance, the Amazon on horseback drew a bevy of admirers and sold for above its high estimate at CHF 20 740 / EUR 14 500.

Chryselephantine sculptures by Chiparus continue to sell well, as evidenced by the smaller version of his "Actress" model in this sale (lot 99) that fetched CHF 18 300 / EUR 12 810. Art Nouveau and Art Deco glassware also fetched strong prices, such as the "Poissons" lamp by René Lalique (lot 27) that sold for CHF 11 590 / EUR 8 100.

Among the Georg Jensen silver, a set of twelve "acorn" pattern plates (lot 82) sold for five times their estimate for a surprising CHF 24 400 / EUR 17 000.



G46/27
RENE LALIQUE
"Poissons" lamp, circa 1940. H 31 cm.

Sold for CHF 11 590 / EUR 8 100



G46/99
DEMETRE CHIPARUS
"Actress." H 30 cm.

Sold for
CHF 18 300 / EUR 12 810



G46/82
GEORG JENSEN
12 silver plates, after 1946.

Sold for
CHF 24 400 / EUR 17 000



G46/115
FRANZ VON STUCK
Amazon on horseback. L 40 cm.

Sold for
CHF 20 740 / EUR 14 500

Design 19 May 2010

A series of sleek, polished brass furniture by Italian socialite designer Gabriella Crespi found buyers at Koller Geneva's May auction (lots 252 - 257). Crespi was all the rage in the 60s and 70s among prestigious clients from Princess Grace to the Shah of Iran, before she abruptly ended her career to follow her Indian guru, Shri Muniraji. All of the pieces presented in Koller's auction were purchased directly by the present owner from Ms Crespi, at her fabulous Milan showroom on the Via Montenapoleone.

Memphis furniture from the 1980s also sold very well in this sale, such as the anthropomorphic "Carlton" model bookcase from 1981 (lot 298) that fetched CHF 10 370 / EUR 7 260. Apparently the current vogue for everything 80s also includes the design market.



G46/257
GABRIELLA CRESPI
"Commode Mr/Mme." Model 2075/5.

Sold for CHF 18 300 / EUR 12 800



G46/254
GABRIELLA CRESPI
"Nautilus" Bar. Model 2081.
78x90x100 cm.

Sold for CHF 15 860 / EUR 11 100



G46/256
GABRIELLA CRESPI
"Coiffeuse Hexagonale." Model 2004/94.

Sold for CHF 18 300 / EUR 12 800



G46/298
ETTORE SOTTASS
"Carlton" book case. Design 1981 for Memphis ed.
190x32x197 cm.

Sold for CHF 10 370 / EUR 7 260

Photographs 19 May 2010

Collectors were attracted to the legendary names of 20th-century photography presented in Koller Geneva's May auction, such as an expressive portrait of Henri Matisse by Cartier Bresson (lot 508) that sold for CHF 9 760 / EUR 6 830, and an iconic image of the D-Day landing by Robert Capa (lot 507) that soared above its high estimate to reach CHF 8 540 / EUR 6 000.

A series of images by Robert Doisneau was headed by the playful "Les pains de Picasso" (lot 529), that fetched CHF 6 100 / EUR 4 270. Among the numerous photos of Marilyn Monroe, Cartier-Bresson's image of the star lost in a moment of private reflection during the shooting of "The Misfits" (lot 533) brought CHF 8 540 / EUR 6 000.



G46/529
ROBERT DOISNEAU
"Les pains de Picasso". 1952. Later gelatin silver print. Ca. 38x24 cm.

Sold for CHF 6 100 / EUR 4 270



G46/508
HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON
Henri Matisse. 1944. Later gelatin silver print. Ca. 30x40 cm.

Sold for CHF 9 760 / EUR 6 830



G46/533
HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON
Marilyn Monroe in Reno. 1961. Later gelatin silver print. Ca. 45x30 cm.

Sold for CHF 8 540 / EUR 6 000

Paintings and Sculptures

19 May 2010

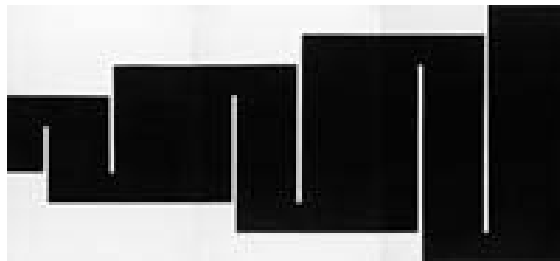
A triptych by Croatian artist Julije Knifer (lot 444) was the highlight of the paintings auction at Koller Geneva this May. Exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 1976, the historical importance and graphic purity of the large-format work attracted bidders from around the world, and even provided a bit of salesroom drama: just when bidding on the nine telephones stalled at CHF 95 000 (from an estimate of CHF 40 000 – 60 000) and the auctioneer was about to let down the hammer, a collector in the saleroom dramatically thrust his hand in the air to break the CHF 100 000 mark and become the successful bidder.

Other highlights included a stunning Lake of Geneva view by Swiss artist Auguste Veillon (lot 402) that sold for more than five times its pre-sale estimate at CHF 41 480 / EUR 29 000*, and a nude by self-taught artist Mahmoud Saïd (lot 426) that fetched CHF 48 800 / EUR 34 160, proof that Saïd's fame has spread beyond the borders of his native Egypt.



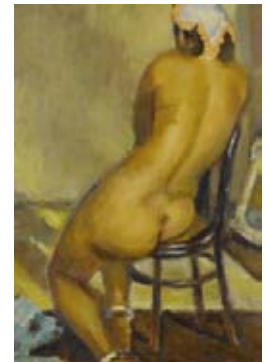
G46/402
AUGUSTE VEILLON
"Vue du lac Léman et des Dents-du-Midi". 1867.
Oil on canvas. 158x105 cm.

Sold for CHF 41 480 / EUR 29 000



G46/444
JULIJE KNIFER
No title. Triptychon. 1975. Acrylic on canvas. 170x372 cm.

Sold for CHF 122 000 / EUR 85 300



G46/426
MAHMOUD SAÏD
Female nude. 1949. Oil
on canvas on cardboard.
40x27 cm.

Sold for
CHF 48 800 / EUR 34 160

Books

20 May 2010

Alberto Giacometti's final, unfinished ode to his beloved Paris, "Paris sans Fin" (lot 632) sold for above its high estimate despite its unusual condition, with many of the individual prints removed and framed, for CHF 34 160 / EUR 23 900. Books illustrated by Salvador Dalí remain attractive, as witnessed by the two works in this auction: the rare "Les Chevaux de Dalí" (lot 625) and "Casanova" (lot 627), each selling for CHF 4 270 / EUR 3 000. Cezanne, Renoir and Pissarro were among the artists who illustrated "Histoire des peintres impressionnistes" (lot 630) by turn-of-the-century painting dealer Théodore Duret, which fetched CHF 5 490 / EUR 3 840.



G46/632
ALBERTO GIACOMETTI
"Paris sans fin". 1969.

Sold for CHF 34 160 / EUR 23 900



G46/625
SALVADOR DALI, ALAIN DECAUX,
LEON ZITRONE and YVES
SAINT-MARTIN
"Les chevaux de Dalí". 1983.

Sold for
CHF 4 270 / EUR 3 000



G46/630
THEODORE DURET
"Histoire des peintres impressionnistes". 1909.

Sold for CHF 5 490 / EUR 3 840



Wine 20 May 2010

Red Bordeaux wines did particularly well in this marathon wine auction of over 500 lots, such as a case of Château Lafite Rothschild 1988 (lot 716) that fetched CHF 10 980 / EUR 7 700, and from the same domain, three magnums from 2000 (lot 718) sold for CHF 12 078 / EUR 8 450. Six bottles of Château Lafite, also from 2000 (lot 719) found a buyer for CHF 13 420 / EUR 9 400.



* All prices include buyer's premium (22%). Estimated prices do not include buyer's premium.

Online catalogue, results and high-resolution images on: www.kollerauktionen.ch

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About Koller

The leading Swiss auction house and among the foremost auctioneers worldwide, Koller has been holding successful auctions for 50 years. Koller organizes over 60 auctions annually in more than 15 categories, including old master & 19th century paintings, prints and drawings; Swiss art, modern & contemporary art; furniture and decorative arts; jewelry; Asian art; art nouveau & art deco; books & autographs; tribal art, and wine. A family-owned company, Koller's name is synonymous with professional, personalized service and outstanding results.

With 7 representative offices worldwide from London to Shanghai, its membership in the worldwide auctioneers' alliance IA, International Auctioneers, and its widespread presence in international publications and the Internet, Koller offers all of the advantages of an international auction house combined with Swiss efficiency and dependability.

Art Nouveau – Art Deco

Present in Koller Zurich's auctions since the foundation of the company, since 2006 this department, headed by Jean-Pierre Dalla Vedova, holds its sales twice annually in Geneva. The decision to devote a special catalogue to these periods and to hold the auctions in Geneva has proved to be extremely positive for Koller's Art Nouveau and Art Deco sales, contributing to the rapid expansion of the department and the realization of several record prices, including the CHF 288 000 paid for a chryselephantine "Starfish" by Demeter H. Chiparus in May 2006.

Design

Koller is the only auction house in Switzerland that dedicates an entire auction to this theme, and the numerous collectors who attend the twice-annual auctions in Geneva are proof of its growing popularity. Under the direction of Cyril Himmer, Koller's design auctions have quickly grown in prestige and quality, presenting works by such design giants as Le Corbusier, Alvaar Alto, Werner Pantoni and Ron Arad.

More than a fad, Design is in the process of being inscribed in the history of art of the 20th century, and appeals to a trans-generational public: from those who collected the works of early-to-mid century designers as they appeared and who continue to do so, to post baby-boomers who are discovering design classics as well as 21st-century creations for the first time.