

Sotheby's EST. 1744

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Sotheby's to Present
MARIO BUATTA
PRINCE OF INTERIORS

A Dedicated Two-Day Auction Offering Nearly 1,000 Pieces
Of Furniture, Fine Art and Decorative Objects
Emerging from the Iconic Interior Designer's Homes
In New York and Connecticut

Auction to be Held During
Sotheby's Americana Week Sales Series
This January in New York

"A house should grow in the same way that an artist's painting grows. A few dabs today, a few more tomorrow and the rest when the spirit moves you. When the painting is completed (as no room ever should be), it never reflects the artist's original conception." – Mario Buatta



Mario Buatta's Living Room, New York

Image © Scott Frances OTTO

NEW YORK, 18 September 2019 – Sotheby’s is honored to announce that we will present furniture, fine art and decorative objects from the personal collection of legendary interior designer Mario Buatta in a dedicated two-day auction that will take place during one of the busiest weeks on the New York art market calendar, alongside with both The Winter Show and our Americana Week sales series in New York in January 2020.

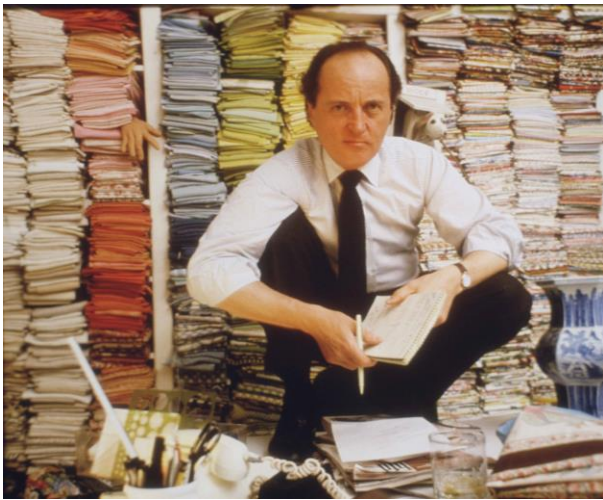
Mario Buatta: Prince of Interiors will offer a diverse array of nearly 1,000 works that Mr. Buatta lived with in his Upper East Side apartment in New York City as well as the William Mason House – an historic gothic-style home in Thompson, Connecticut – and feature many pieces that have long been admired in showhouse rooms and shelter magazines over the years.

Most influenced by the understated elegance of Colefax and Fowler and the doyenne of exuberant American decor, Sister Parish, Buatta reinvented the English Country House style stateside for clients such as Henry Ford II, Barbara Walters, Malcolm Forbes, Mariah Carey, Patricia Altschul and for Blair House, the President’s guest quarters. The collection comprises: English and Chinese Export porcelain; English pottery and Dutch Delft; English enamels, silver, and glassware; numerous examples of English and Continental furniture, with a particular focus on lacquered, japanned and penwork items; an ensemble of fine art, accented by his well-known collection of dog paintings and many more eclectic objects that illustrate his incomparable personality. With estimates beginning at just \$800, the sale will present collectors and admirers at all levels with a unique opportunity to acquire a piece of Mr. Buatta’s influential aesthetic.

The New York auction on 23 and 24 January will be preceded by a public exhibition opening 16 January in Sotheby’s York Avenue galleries.

Details regarding individual highlights from the collection will be shared in due course this fall.

ABOUT MARIO BUATTA



Mario Buatta

Mario Buatta was one of America's most renowned and beloved interior designers. Dubbed "the Prince of Chintz" by reporter Chauncey Howell in 1984, Buatta embraced the collected interior. His sumptuous rooms layered fine antiques, confectionary curtains, and sublime colorations, creating an atmosphere of lived-in opulence. During his tenure as chairman of The Winter Show at the Park Avenue Armory from 1977 to 1991, he championed the importance – and glamour – of collecting antiques.

The designer was born in West Brighton, Staten Island, on October 21, 1935 to Felix and Olive Buatta. He studied architecture at Cooper Union and attended Parsons School of Design's summer session in Europe with his mentor Professor Stanley Barrows. He received Honorary Doctorates in the Fine Arts from Wagner College and Pratt Institute. In 2011, the New York School of Interior Design renamed the College's materials library and work area for students in his honor and gave him their first Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a member of Architectural Digest's AD100 List from its inception in 1990.

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Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

Images are available upon request

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