

SOTHEBY'S THIRD CONTEMPORARY ARTS EXHIBITION FEBRUARY 4-11, 1999

FROM the first selling exhibition held at their London salerooms of Contemporary Decorative Arts in 1997, Sotheby's established an immediate reputation for gathering together an exciting, surprising and diverse group of craftpeople.

The third exhibition, to be held on February 4-11, 1999, will again emphasise an electric mix of talent. Well established and respected names like ceramicists Professor Takeshi Yasuda and Julian Stair and furniture designer Jane Dillon, will be exhibiting alongside recent graduates eager for the opportunity to use the Sotheby's exhibition to become established and gain recognition.

Curator Janice Blackburn, winner of the 1998 Montblanc de la Culture Award has had a busy and exhilarating year as selector of craft for the Contemporary Art Society and Curator of 'Spirit of the Times' at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham which received universal acclaim and attracted large numbers of enthusiastic visitors to a great museum known as the 'V&A of the North'.

For her 1999 selection, Janice Blackburn has pursued and extended her choices for the work that is more cutting edge and conceptual, and which in her opinion, moves the direction of craft into the next century without ignoring craftsmanship and technique. Recent graduate Victoria Metcalf's elegant, sophisticated gowns sculpted in wood, Freddie Robins distorted knitted sweaters and Tiziana Bendall-Brunello's fragile porcelain children's dresses will show beside work that is functional and very wearable: jewellery by Alison Evans and Emma Paolozzi; covetable wood vessels by Jim Partridge and Malcolm Martin and some truly outstanding glass from, among others, Sarah McDonald, Zora Palova and Galia Amsel.

Following the interest in last year's Fantasy Slippers for a Millennium Ball exhibition, there will be another unusual, small self-contained exhibition in the Mezzanine Level – Chocolate – a fascinating and amusing show featuring artists whose only link will be the material they are working with ... everyone's secret addiction – chocolate! This is a travelling exhibition, which originated at The Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, curated by Laura Hamilton.