

FURNITURE FROM THE COLLECTION OF ITALIAN INTERIOR DESIGNER DINO CORINI

To be sold at Sotheby's in London

FURNITURE that once decorated the elegant New York apartment of interior designer Dino Corini will be sold at Sotheby's in London on Wednesday, December 13, 2000.

A celebrated designer and private collector, Corini collected objects showing a mix of styles from his extensive travels within the United States and across Europe. Corini decorated several society houses, counting members of the Guggenheim family and the French illustrator, René Gruau among his closest friends. His opulent and predominantly classical style, is thought to derive from his Roman origins as well as a close friendship with the American archaeologist Iris Love. The pieces in Sotheby's sale of continental furniture and tapestries are from his own collection.

A pair of highly important south German commodes are based on designs by François Cuvilliés (1695-1768), one of the leading German rococo architects and designers of the 18th century. The commodes feature carving attributed to Joachim Dietrich (1690-1753) who worked for the Bavarian Elector Karl Albrecht. Each serpentine-fronted commode has a mottled cream and white marble top and is carved with bold rococo acanthus leaves and chrysanthemums decorated in parcel-gilt, on an ivory-coloured background. The only comparable commodes are in the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the John Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The examples in Sotheby's sale date from c. 1740 and are estimated to fetch £180,000-250,000.

A fine pair of Italian carved armchairs from the Corini collection belong to the same suite of furniture housed at the esteemed Castello di Masino in Turin. The composition materials, including gesso used in the decoration of the green and cream chairs, known as the pastiglia di riso technique, is thought to have been influenced by the 18th century carver and cabinet-maker Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo.

Each chair is beautifully detailed, with carved classical masks, vases, animals and foliage. The pair dates from c. 1790 and is estimated to fetch £20,000-30,000.

Elsewhere in the sale a monumental pair of Italian marble side tables was almost certainly inspired by the designers and architects of La second Renaissance, that occurred in France between 1530 and 1590. Such designers included Jacques Androuet Ducerceau who, in 1550, published his furniture designs in a series of engravings. Ducerceau's work was based on Classicism and motifs drawn from antiquity. Also evident in the design of the tables is inspiration drawn from Hughes Sambin (1518-1601) a Burgundian architect, sculptor and cabinet-maker, who also published his engravings in 1572 and used elements of Classicism in his work. The influence of such designers' work is depicted in the boldly carved scroll supports, female sphinxes, geometric motifs and marble inlaid fronts on the tables. The beautiful detailing compliments the overall architectural style of the tables. The pair dates from the late 16th century and is estimated at £120,000-150,000.

A fine and rare green and gilt japanned bureau cabinet of German origin displays delightful chinoiserie scenes, reclining male child figures and a red japanned interior with secret compartments. The chinoiserie decoration reflects the European enthusiasm for oriental wares dating from its inception in the 17th century, when Dutchman Johan Nieuwhof produced a series of drawings which were made into engravings and published in 1669. The foremost lacquer centres of the 17th century were in Germany and Dresden, but the influence of the English on German lacquer ware was demonstrated in a book called The Treatise on Japanning published by Stalker and Parker in 1668. This contained images for artists imitating oriental lacquer and consequently English lacquer goods were also imported into Germany. The form of the cabinet in the sale is typical of Dresden cabinets of the period and is thought to be one of a pair. Dating from the second quarter of the 18th century it is estimated to fetch £100,000-150,000.

A particularly rare Chinese commode, decorated in red lacquer rather than the typical black of this period, is stamped I. Dubois, for Jacques Dubois, (1693-1763) one of the most important French cabinet-makers of the Louis XV period. Exquisite chinoiserie figures walking in the gardens of a summer palace and decorative borders of flowers, birds and huntsmen decorate this mid 18th century piece. It is estimated to fetch £100,000-150,000.

Among two outstanding tapestries is a 'Teniers' genre tapestry by Judocus de Vos, a member of one of the leading families of weavers in Brussels in the 17th and 18th centuries. Entitled The Game of Bowls, the tapestry depicts a

group of Flemish peasants outside a village alehouse, with a landscape background. The tapestry bears the Brussels town mark and weaver's mark and has the traditional de Vos red and gold frame pattern border. It is estimated to fetch £40,000-50,000.

A pair of blue de roi Sèvres porcelain Medici vases with mounts are attributed to Pierre-Philippe Thomire, one of the foremost bronziers of the Louis XVI and Empire periods. Each vase is decorated with a gilt-bronze egg-and-dart rim, centaurs with lyres and decorative acanthus and foliate handles. Between 1783 and 1784 the Sèvres factory made several similar vases, which were modelled by the 18th century sculptor Boizot and mounted by Thomire. The vases date from the early 19th century and are estimated to fetch £70,000-100,000.

Sotheby's press office contact :
Sandie Maylor
Tel : 020 7293 5162
Fax : 020 7293 5947
Email: Sandie.maylor@sothebys.com

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