

Sotheby's

Press release Paris

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DIEGO GIACOMETTI

Auction at Sotheby's Paris on Wednesday 17 May

Paris, March 2017 – After the enchanting world of the Lalannes in 2015 and the delicate glass pieces by Emile Gallé in 2016, **Sotheby's is devoting a sale to Diego Giacometti (1902-1985) on Wednesday 17 May. This auction of thirty works will follow the regular Spring Design auction, at 6 p.m.** It will have a separate catalogue with an introduction by art historian Diana Widmaier Picasso, who acclaims this tribute sale as follows "The sale staged by Sotheby's highlights a large selection of works commissioned from the artist, like *La Promenade des amis*, the table with frogs and



birds, the firedogs with stars, the pedestal table with harpies, a pair of wall lamps with owls and the "Carcasse" table. I am sure the beauty and purity of all these works, imbued with Diego Giacometti's humanity and powerful imagination, will find a fresh resonance with many collectors throughout the world."



Diego Giacometti is now very much in the limelight. The Giacometti brothers, who were extremely close, worked for years in the same studio. The younger posed for the elder, prepared his plasters and combined his talent with Alberto's to produce a variety of works, particularly for Jean-Michel Frank. Assistant, model and confidant, Diego was Alberto's alter ego. His own career only began to blossom during the 1960s, after the sculptor died. As

craftsman-sculptor, Diego developed a passion for creating furniture, his magician's fingers giving life to chairs, tables, consoles and lamps featuring a whole fauna of frogs, mice, stags, foxes, dogs, cats and ostriches. These delightfully humorous animals – sometimes poised to leap, sometimes quiet and at peace – bring a touch of poetry to everyday life.

Diego's works are a fascinating counterpoint to those of the existentialist artist Alberto, whose elongated, tremulous figures are heavily riveted to their bases: elements as fundamental as the sculptures themselves. With Diego, every piece is light and airy. **Florent Jeanniard**, specialist in Design, said: "Inspired by a poetic impulse, Diego Giacometti diverts the primary function of furniture and transfigures it through a playful bestiary. His pieces are no longer purely utilitarian, but achieve the rank of art works."

Auction: Wednesday 17 May, 6.00 p.m.

Exhibition: 12 to 16 May

**Estimates do not include the buyer's premium, and prices consist of the hammer price and the buyer's premium*

Images are available on request

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Guéridon aux harpies, vers 1970
Bronze patiné et dalle de verre
Estimation : 70.000 – 100.000 €



Table Feuilles aux oiseaux et grenouilles
Bronze patiné et verre
Estimation : 120.000-150.000 €



Table Carcasse à la chauve-souris,
vers 1970
Bronze patiné et verre
Estimation : 200.000-300.000 €



Paire de chaises
Bronze patiné, fer et cuir original
pour le coussin du siège
Estimation : 100.000 – 150.000 €