

# PHILLIPS

PRESS RELEASE

## IMPORTANT 20TH-CENTURY FRENCH AND ITALIAN DESIGN TO LEAD PHILLIPS' LONDON AUCTION



**Ettore Sottsass, Jr.**  
*Unique 'Toeletta Nanda', from the Ettore Sottsass, Jr. and Fernanda Pivano residence, Milan, 1958*  
Estimate: £80,000–120,000



**François-Xavier Lalanne**  
*'Mouton de Pierre', designed 1979, executed 1989*  
Estimate: £180,000–250,000

LONDON – 20 APRIL 2026 – Phillips is proud to unveil highlights from its Design auction in London on 30 April. Anchored by François-Xavier Lalanne's iconic *'Mouton de Pierre'* sheep and a distinguished group of French mid-century design, the sale brings together visionary objects that trace the evolution of design from post-war reconstruction to radical experimentation. From Ettore Sottsass, Jr.'s deeply personal and unique *'Toeletta Nanda'* to exceptional works by Jean Prouvé and Charlotte Perriand, alongside pioneering collaborations between Gio Ponti and Piero Fornasetti and between Osvaldo Borsani and Lucio Fontana, the auction foregrounds design as both a reflection of its time and a catalyst for new ways of living. The catalogue is available [online](#), with a public exhibition opening at Phillips' Berkeley Square galleries on 24 April.

**Domenico Raimondo, Phillips' Head of Department, Design, Europe and Senior International Specialist,** said, "From Sottsass' intimate and radical *'Toeletta Nanda'* to the raw immediacy of Ron Arad's early works, this sale charts a remarkable trajectory of design innovation across the 20th century and beyond. These works capture moments of profound experimentation, where new materials, techniques and ways of thinking redefined the possibilities of design. I am particularly thrilled by the strength of the Italian group, whose bold formal language and technical ingenuity continue to resonate with collectors today. We look forward to welcoming visitors to experience these works first hand from 24 April."

## ICONS OF 20TH-CENTURY ITALIAN DESIGN

At the heart of the Italian selection is Ettore Sottsass, Jr.'s unique *'Toietta Nanda'*, conceived in 1958 for the Milan apartment he shared with his first wife and muse, writer Fernanda Pivano. Executed by cabinetmaker Renzo Brugola, the piece was designed specifically for the couple's home and demonstrates an early articulation of Sottsass' spatial thinking and bold use of colour. Its vitrines, housing symbolic figures associated with devotion and mythology, introduce a narrative dimension rarely seen in functional furniture. As one of the few bespoke pieces created for the apartment, *'Toietta Nanda'* stands as joyful work, offering a glimpse into Sottsass' private world at a formative moment in his career.

Equally emblematic of Italian post-war creativity is the *Important 'Fiori e farfalle' low table* by Gio Ponti and Piero Fornasetti, produced circa 1951 at the height of their collaboration. This partnership, rooted in a distinctly Milanese synthesis of art, design and architecture, reimagined the domestic interior as a total work of art. The present table reflects a moment when Ponti's concept of the *casa attrezzata*, the fully designed environment, was brought to life through Fornasetti's surreal and poetic visual language.



**Gio Ponti and Piero Fornasetti**  
*Important 'Fiori e farfalle' low table*, circa 1951  
Estimate: £10,000–15,000

## FRENCH MID-CENTURY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of French mid-century design include Jean Prouvé's *Cabinet, model no. 150*. Developed in the context of post-war scarcity and urgent housing needs, the design treats furniture as an extension of architecture. Its folded sheet-steel uprights act as load-bearing elements, while its demountable construction anticipates the rise of prefabrication and modular living. Charlotte Perriand's iconic *'Nuage'* wall-mounted shelf further expands this architectural approach into the domestic sphere. Conceived as a flexible, open system, the design reflects her interest in adaptability and the integration of furniture within living space. Also on offer are five mirrors and a *Rare sculpture* by Line Vautrin, showcasing a variety of her intimate and avant-garde radiating compositions, defined by an inventive use of *Talose* and a distinctive interplay of light, reflection and poetic fantasy.



**Jean Prouvé**  
*Cabinet, model no. 150*, circa 1955  
Estimate: £80,000–120,000



**Charlotte Perriand**  
*'Nuage' wall-mounted shelf*, 1956  
Estimate: £40,000–60,000



**Line Vautrin**  
*Mirror*, circa 1960  
Estimate: £30,000–50,000

## CONTEMPORARY

The contemporary section of the sale explores the continued evolution of design through technological innovation and material experimentation. Jeroen Verhoeven's *'Lectori Salutem'* desk (2010) stands as a remarkable synthesis of digital design and traditional craftsmanship. Constructed from 150 individually fabricated steel panels, the work transforms an industrial material into a fluid, almost organic form.

**Jeroen Verhoeven**  
*'Lectori Salutem'* desk, 2010  
Estimate: £50,000–70,000



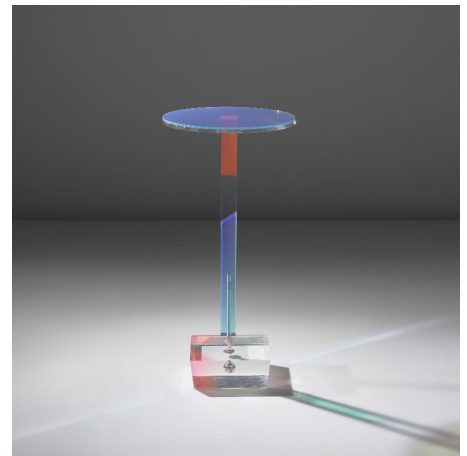
Equally compelling are two early works by Ron Arad, created circa 1990 in his London studio, One Off. These unique chairs, executed for private clients, capture a moment of raw experimentation in which design was driven by process. With their exposed welds, visible joints and dynamic use of materials such as sprung steel, they embody Arad's groundbreaking approach to making. These works, rarely seen on the market, offer important insight into the formative years of one of the most influential designers of his generation. A further highlight is a rare *'Placebo'* side table by Shiro Kuramata. Gifted to the current owner directly by the artist and produced with exceptional technical precision, the present example underscores Kuramata's enduring legacy as a master of poetic minimalism.



**Ron Arad**  
*Unique armchair*, circa 1990  
Estimate: £25,000–35,000



**Ron Arad**  
*Unique 'Sapporo Spring'*, 1990  
Estimate: £25,000–35,000



**Shiro Kuramata**  
*Rare 'Placebo' side table*, circa 1989  
Estimate: £10,000–15,000

## FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Further highlights in the sale include a rare *Tea glass with stirrer* by Josef Albers, a refined example of Bauhaus design from the mid-1920s. Created within the Bauhaus metal workshop, the piece reflects the school's exploration of how everyday objects might be rethought through design. Rather than industrially produced, such works were experimental prototypes, and this is a rare surviving example from Albers' early practice. An example of this design is held in the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

**Josef Albers**  
*Rare tea glass with stirrer*, circa 1925  
Estimate: £15,000–20,000





**Carlo Bugatti**  
*Pair of cabinets, circa 1900*  
Estimate: £40,000–60,000



**Lucie Rie**  
*Footed bowl, 1969*  
Estimate: £40,000–60,000



**Rick Owens**  
*Rare 'Stag T', circa 2018*  
Estimate: £7,000–9,000

**Auction:** 30 April 2026

**Auction viewing:** 24–30 Month

**Location:** 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

**Click here for more information:** <https://www.phillips.com/auction/UK050126>

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*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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