

SOLLO RAGO

RAGO ARTS AND AUCTION CENTER

Contacts:

Marilyn White

973 783 3649

mwhitepr@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDER GORLIN, AMY LAU, JUAN MONTOYA, STEVEN SCLAROFF, MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH AND ALISON SPEAR CREATE ROOM VIGNETTES USING MASTERWORKS FROM SOLLO RAGO'S 20TH CENTURY TWO-DAY MODERN SALE

"MODERN MASTERS" ON VIEW APRIL 5-11 204 NORTH UNION STREET LAMBERTVILLE, NJ

Lambertville NJ: To herald its two-day sale of twentieth century furniture, decorative objects and fine art on April 12 and 13, Sollo Rago has partnered with Alexander Gorlin, Amy Lau, Juan Montoya, Steven Sclaroff, Matthew Patrick Smyth and Alison Spear to present "Modern Masters," an exhibition of six room vignettes using the furniture and decorative accessories from the sale. They will be on view from April 5-11 at the auction gallery, 204 North Union Street in Lambertville, New Jersey.

Each of these top designers, all recognized and sought after for their command of modern design, will transform a 200 square-foot blank canvas into a finely edited room of modern masterpieces.

"I am delighted to have such a pre-eminent group of modern designers working with us," said John Sollo, a leading expert in the field of modern twentieth century design. "The best way to appreciate the property in our sale is within the context of a beautiful room. I have no doubt that these six designers will each create a visual tour de force."

"I'm very excited to prepare an environment for rare and important museum-quality furniture, decorative arts, and fine art from Rago," said Amy Lau, who has spent many years advising collectors on 20th-century decorative arts. "My philosophy is curate to decorate, because I approach interiors as a connoisseur. By referencing the past, but with an eye towards the future, I hope to show connections between today's avant-garde and the work now considered to be the very best historical modernism."

According to Alison Spear, this is her chance to create a fantasy. "Having just moved back to New York from Miami, this arena is very exciting for me," she said. "Sollo Rago has great depth, exactly what makes us, as designers, very inspired. I am especially excited to be among a talented group of friends and colleagues."

"It's a window of opportunity to create an exciting combination of elements using the furniture and objects to create a beautiful space," said Juan Montoya. The designers will make their selections from over one thousand lots of the top names in the field of 20th-century design.

Among them are:

- DALE CHIHULY: A large Macchia of vermillion, turquoise and manganese striped glass, 1988. Acid-etched signature and date. 14 3/4" x 27" Estimate \$15,000 - \$25,000
- ANDRE DUBREUIL: A ram chair of bent and welded steel with seat upholstered in ultrasuede, ca. 1980s. 35 3/4" x 28" x 35" Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000
- PAUL EVANS: An Argente cabinet with two doors concealing three drawers, and inset slate top. 38" x 40" x 24" Estimate: \$30,000 - \$50,000
- TOMMI PARZINGER: A pale creamy yellow enameled wood cabinet with interior shelves, brass strap hinges and ball feet on platform. 35 3/4" x 92 1/2" x 20" Estimate \$12,000 - \$18,000
- MARC NEWSON / IDEE: A wicker lounge chair with aluminum leg. 29" x 26" x 36"
Estimate \$5,000- \$7,000
- JEAN DUNAND (Swiss, 1877-1942): A lacquered panel depicting sea life on a silvered ground, with period frame. Stamped Jean Dunand. Unframed: 24" x 20" Estimate: \$30,000 - \$50,000
- WHARTON ESHERICK: An extraordinary curved sculpted walnut music cabinet, 1955. Signed WE '55. Accompanied by "As I Watch'd the Ploughman Ploughing, illustrated by Wharton Esherick, inscribed and signed, "For the music shelves of Ruth and Larry. December 1955. Affectionately, Wharton." (Provenance available.) 23 1/2" x 41" x 18" Estimate: \$40,000 - \$60,000
- ETTORE SOTTASS / MEMPHIS: A Carlton multicolored and patterned laminate bookcase unit. 77 1/2" x 75" x 15 3/4" Estimate: \$6,000 - \$9,000
- GEORGE NAKASHIMA: A spectacular Minguren I coffee table with English oak burl top on laurel base, 1969. "17 1/4" x 42 1/2" Estimate: \$80,000 - \$120,000

"It's wonderful to create a space with such superb quality objects and furniture," said Alexander Gorlin, whose clients include architect Daniel Libeskind, the Stairway to Heaven beach homes in Seagrave Florida and the Gorlin Building on Miami Beach's Millionaires Row. "I just wish I could keep them."

Steven Sclaroff concurs with his colleagues. "There's no question that Sollo Rago offers the best there is in their field. I can't wait to get my hands on some of the items and maybe bid on a few."

Matthew Patrick Smyth sums it up. "It's always a challenge to turn an empty space into something meaningful. But as designers that's what we love to do, and we will certainly have some beautiful objects to enhance the process."

Auction Contact Information

Sollo Rago is located at 333 North Main Street with Annex Gallery at 204 North Union Street, Lambertville NJ. For more information phone 609-397-9374 or visit www.ragoarts.com.

Exhibition Preview

Saturday, April 5 – Friday, April 11, 2008 from 11- 6 pm and by appointment. Doors open at 9 a.m. the mornings of the sale.

Catalogues

Printed and online catalogues (available in late March) can be purchased online or by calling (609) 397.9374. You can also e-mail a request to info@ragoarts.com or view the complete catalogue online at www.sollorago.com.

Notes for the Editor

High-resolution image available.

More information online at ragoarts.com.

About Sollo Rago Modern Auctions

Sollo Rago Modern Auctions was established in 1998 by John Sollo and David Rago, two of the country's leading experts in the sale of in 20th century design. Sollo Rago Modern is the first auction house to champion the great studio craftsmen George Nakashima, Paul Evans and Wharton Esherick, the first to promote the growth of Modern ceramics and the first to return to the designs of 1970's. It is also responsible for the resurgence of interest in the great Post Modern studio designers, including Wendell Castle, Albert Paley and Judy McKie. Much of the most important work sold at auction by Evans, Nakashima, Esherick, Harry Bertoia, Albert Paley, Vladimir Kagan, Richard Devore and Beatrice Wood (among others) has been sold by John Sollo and David Rago. In 2006, specialist Meredith Hilferty added fine Modern and Contemporary art to the selection of extraordinary decorative arts and furnishings. Sollo Rago Modern Auctions holds two multi-million dollar sales each year in April and October.

About Rago Arts and Auction Center

The Rago Arts and Auction Center was established in 1995 by David Rago, a leading expert and dealer in American art pottery who entered the business of auctions in 1984. The Auction Center, located midway between Philadelphia and New York, holds multi-million dollar sales of 20th century decorative arts and furnishings, fine art, jewelry and estate property. Rago's achieved sales of over \$27 million in the 2006-2007 season. It holds an average of twelve sales each year.

END OF PRESS RELEASE