

Art Market Fairs & Auctions

OBJECT LESSONS

From a white jade dagger to Leslie Waddington's Picabia, here is our pick from this month's international auctions and fairs. By Anna Brady



Charles Hossein Zenderoudi, De chaque cote, les etoiles fusent (1977)

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART, CHRISTIE'S, DUBAI, 18 OCTOBER
ESTIMATE \$120,000-\$180,000

The auction market for Middle Eastern art predominantly revolves around post-war works by established Egyptian and Iranian Modernists. One of these is the Iranian Charles Hossein Zenderoudi, whose work is being sold by an American collector who bought it from him in the early 1980s. Divided into two halves to signify the corporeal and the spiritual, it is part of a series of works based on Iranian talismanic charts from the 19th century and earlier. The use of repetitive patterns of figures, numbers and letters from Shi'ite iconography are typical of Zenderoudi's style.

Imperial Khotan jade "Taishang Huangdi zhi Bao" seal, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period (18th century)

CHINESE WORKS OF ART, SOTHEBY'S, HONG KONG, 5 OCTOBER
ESTIMATE: HK\$80M-HK\$120M

In 1796, the Qianlong Emperor abdicated after 60 years of rule, making way for his son Yongyan to take the throne as Emperor Jiaqing. That year, he declared: "After I have passed on the throne, I shall have the phrase 'Taishang Huangdi zhi Bao' [treasure of the Emperor Emeritus] carved on to my best jade seals... to display the flourish and growth of the dynasty while I am the Emperor Supreme." This large Khotan-green jade is the second largest of a group of 20 jade seals made by the emperor's craftsmen.



Marc Newson, Pod of Drawers (1987)

HEAVY METAL, ARTCURIAL, PARIS, 25 OCTOBER
ESTIMATE €600,000-€700,000

As the Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain (Fiac) takes over Paris, Artcurial is holding a Modern and Contemporary design auction to coincide with the fair for the third time. Newson initially trained in jewellery design, but decided to turn his attention to furniture after seeing some European design magazines in his grandfather's carpentry workshop. This piece, which is made from aluminium panels riveted to a fibreglass structure, was inspired by André Gould's 1925 Art Deco design, Chiffonnier Anthropomorphe.



W.A.S. Benson, brass and copper table (around 1900)

BLAIRMAN & SONS AT PAD LONDON, 3-9 OCTOBER
PRICE £24,000

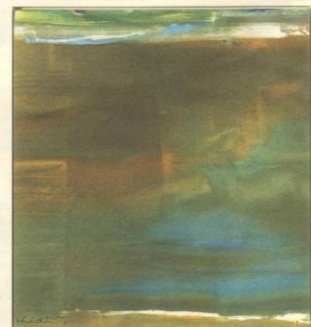
Design takes centre stage at PAD London. Alongside the many 20th-century continental pieces is Blairman & Sons' English take on the decorative arts and design, typified by this brass and copper table by W.A.S. Benson, a key member of the Arts & Crafts movement. This table employs organic, plant-inspired Art Nouveau elements with the modernist restraint that characterises Benson's work.



Helen Frankenthaler, Jade (1976)

MODERN ART & DESIGN AUCTION, LOS ANGELES MODERN AUCTIONS (LAMA), 9 OCTOBER
ESTIMATE \$300,000-\$500,000

Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011) was a rare female star in the male-dominated world of post-war American Abstract Expressionism. An uncompromising self-critic, during the mid-1970s she would destroy any works she thought weren't a perfect composition. This acrylic on canvas, dated 1976, survived. The work was made at a time when Frankenthaler was moving away from pure abstraction to something more representational, and there's a faint landscape here—an inky sea bookended by a shoreline and horizon.



IMPERIAL KHOTAN JADE: COURTESY OF SOTHEBY'S; ART CURIAL; W.A.S. BENSON: COURTESY OF BLAIRMAN & SONS; HELEN FRANKENTHALER: COURTESY OF LAMA