

DROUOT PARIS



AN EXTRAVAGANT PALACE, SETTING OF ERTÉ'S FANCIFUL WORLD

AUCTION ON 6 AND 13 NOVEMBER 2019 AT DROUOT

Paris - On Wednesdays 6 and 13 November, auction house Marc-Arthur Kohn will disperse the interior of a castle located near Paris whose decor was designed in the 1950-60s by Roman de TIRTOFF (1892-1990), also known as Erté. Celebrated for his fashion sketches, costume designs, magazine issues and theater, music-hall and opera sets, he also put his creativity at the service of personalities and interiors like this very one.

Born in Saint Petersburg in an aristocrat family, Erté grew up during the last years of tsarist Russia. In 1912, aged 15, during the golden age of Russian ballets, he moved to Paris to study drawing. He chose the pseudonym of Erté as a reference to the French pronunciation of his initials (R.T.).

As soon as 1915, he signs his first contract as a designer for Harper's Bazaar magazine. This collaboration with the magazine, a major fashion influencer of the early century, lasts over twenty years.

At the same time, during the 20s, he begins creating costumes and sets for theaters, magazines, ballets and operas. He creates exotic costumes and jewelry for American actors and moved on to extravagant sets for the greatest New-York music-halls before working in Hollywood.



In this wide lounge decorated by Erté, he created a pair of leathered cupboards enhanced horns and antlers (estimate: €30,000-50,000), as well as the daybed made of bovid horn and upholstered with wolf-skin (estimate: €8,000-12,000). The outstanding limestone chimney dated 1534, measuring 4,2 meter high and 3,5m long, is estimated between €200,000 and 300,000.

He comes back to France in 1930 after important issues generated by 1929 crisis and pursued his career in the theater industry, the Folies Bergère being one of his clients.

As a multidisciplinary artist, he dedicates himself from the 60s to sculpture and painting. He handles aluminum, iron, copper and wood to shape fantastic and abstract artworks.

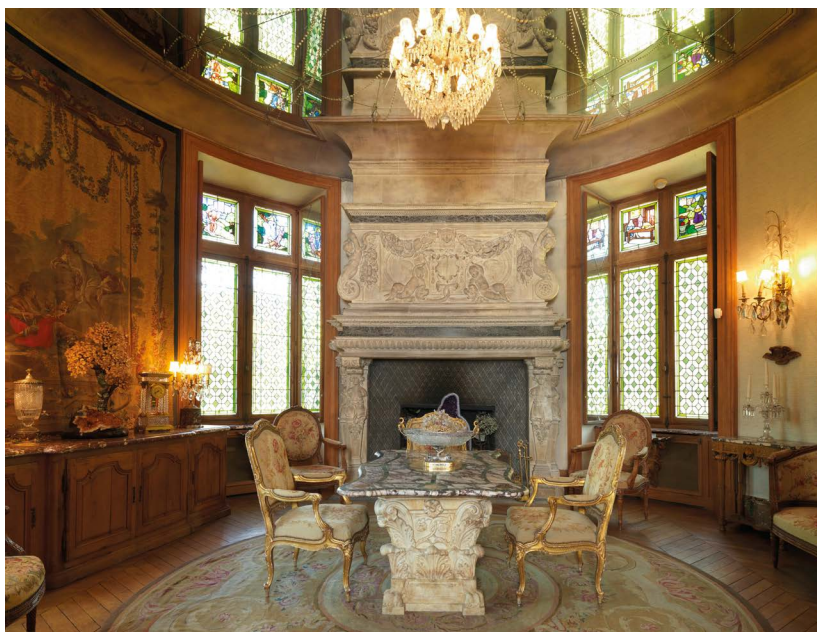
The last two decades of his life were led by exhibitions and publications on his life. His work influenced the Art Deco movement and reflects the aesthetic of the years 1910-1930 and influenced the 20th century's style and design.



« A client's request to set up a fountain in her castle gave me the opportunity to design a whole room on the aquatic theme. I decided then that shells would be the best choice to express my interest in this project and my affection for the sea, shellfishes and other kinds of seafood. » Erté

Marc-Arthur Kohn's auction brings to light the talent of the artist for design. "Cave" furniture, inspired by shells and submarine vegetation, furniture made out of horn and antlers celebrating nature and hunting rituals, furniture and decorative elements entirely recovered with shells, leather upholstered cupboards. This house illustrates the connexion between an extravagant collector and an artist fitted with a fanciful and eccentric spirit. Estimates range from €2,000 and €50,000.

"Work would be funnier if clients were less wimpy" Erté



PUBLIC AUCTION - DROUOT
Wednesdays 6 and 13 November

PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DROUOT
Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 November
Tuesday 12 November

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About Drouot

Founded in 1852, Drouot is the largest auction place in the world ever since. The institution now gathers 63 auction houses and hosted over 1,000 auctions in 2018 that totalled €376M. Each year, Drouot welcomes 500,000 visitors, who browse through the 17 salesrooms which feature the works of art from over 21 categories, from antiquities to street art. The Drouot Group includes several branches, including Auctionspress which publishes the weekly Gazette Drouot and Drouot Digital, the e-commerce platform that offers 'live' services (auction streaming and live bidding) and online-only sales.

Interviews and images on request

