

A Sale in the City

A popular auction house sets up (temporary) shop in a Manhattan apartment

Written by Craig Kellogg
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Photo: Kristy Leibowitz

Rago Arts and Auction Center is a must-see in the quaint Delaware River Valley town of Lambertville, New Jersey. A visit is well worth the drive, though founder David Rago has now made it much easier for New Yorkers to see some of the most notable pieces. He's signed on Manhattan-based designer Stephen Sills, a long-time customer and admirer of the auction house, to serve as an ambassador in the city. Sills selected 120 favorites from the auction's upcoming sale of contemporary design and art, and has installed them in a grand 3-bedroom apartment at the Apthorp, the venerable New York apartment block where he serves as creative director for design.

Sills selected Alexander Girard marble tables, a heart-shaped Damien Hirst spin painting, and a large-format Sally Mann photo as a few of the pieces that will be on display in the apartment he's designed. "I want several things myself, but I am not telling which ones so that people won't bid against me," he jokes. While the sale at Rago takes place at the end of the month, the Apthorp preview begins this weekend, and may be viewed by appointment only, from noon to 5pm. Or if you want to start browsing early, the sale catalog goes online on February 9th at ragoarts.com.

"20th and 21st Century Design," The Apthorp, 390 West End Avenue, New York, New York, February 11 and 12, 609-397-9374 for appointment. And at Rago Arts & Auction Center, 333 North Main Street, Lambertville, New Jersey, February 25 and 26, ragoarts.com.

[Click here to see the gallery for "A Sale in the City."](#)

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