

MODERN DESIGN



219

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT room screen

USA, 1956 | gilt and painted walnut
93 h x 150 w in (236 x 381 cm)

In 1956, Elizabeth Gordon, Editor of House Beautiful commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to create the interior for the master bedroom of her Dobbs Ferry, New York estate. Wright enlisted his key man Eugene Masselink to produce the designs. Mr. Masselink had previously created designs for Wright projects including mural screens for the Price house in Arizona, a mural at Price tower in Oklahoma, and stained glass designs for the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wisconsin. The Mural offered here is part of his geometric design work based on the circle. Wright and Masselink created total works of art, basing entire projects from landscaping to house plans, and furniture to decoration on a single geometry. The circle motif was utilized in several late projects by Wright including the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Masselink's screen presented here illustrates the organic geometry of Wright's late work. The Gordon House screen is hand painted and filled in sections with gold leaf. Intersecting circles create leaf forms which become segmented into fern fronds. The general composition is dynamic and asymmetrical, enveloping but not overpowering the panels upon which it is created. An original custom carpet by Edward Fields, sold with the screen, continues the motif onto the floor. (carpet size 146 x 164) Provenance: Elizabeth Gordon, Dobbs Ferry, New York.

Auction

10 March 2002
noon ct

Wright

1440 West Hubbard Street
Chicago IL
t 312 563 0020
f 312 563 0040

wright20.com
bid@wright20.com

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Estimate: \$30,000–50,000

Result: \$29,900

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