

BUYING AT AUCTION

THE THRILL OF THE SALE

Interior designers tell why they love buying at auction and divulge the tips they have picked up over time



CLARA EWART

Head of design, Kitesgrove

"Auctions offer an opportunity to bid on a selection of antiques and

beautiful artwork curated by knowledgeable auctioneers with an eye for unique finds. This can be less intimidating than second-hand markets, which can often be overwhelming."



SUSIE ATKINSON

Director, Studio Atkinson

"It's important to be knowledgeable about what

you're going to buy. Do your research to evaluate how much you're willing to pay, otherwise it can lead to missing out on certain pieces or paying too much for others."



LIV WALLERS

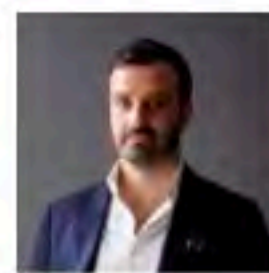
Co-founder, Yellow London

"Auctions will often host previews so you can see everything up close.

Don't be shy about handling and inspecting the pieces properly so you can make a note of any imperfections that might affect your bid. Always ask questions to be confident about what you're willing to bid for, and how much, on the day."



"Auctions can be a more affordable way to decorate your home, as well as a thrilling and inspiring way to shop," says Susie Atkinson, designer of this room.



TOMMASO FRANCHI, Founder & director, Tomef

"If you know you want to buy something, be quick and decisive. Missing out on a piece you really love can be heartbreaking, so decide which pieces you can't leave an auction without and be clear about what your maximum budget is."



OCTAVIA DICKINSON

"When buying online, I advise to always check where the location is and factor in delivery costs; always ask for more photos and the condition report; and set your maximum price and don't go above it – do not get lured into a bidding war."



HENRIETTE VON STOCKHAUSEN

Creative director, VSP Interiors

"If it's the key piece in your main room, you can afford to bid slightly higher, but if it's only a little table, say, then you can hold back and look for another in a future auction. Most importantly though, try to enjoy the process – it's all part of the story of the piece that ends up a part of your home." ■

LEFT Octavia Dickinson used her vibrant Albie fabric to revitalise this antique sofa bought at auction.