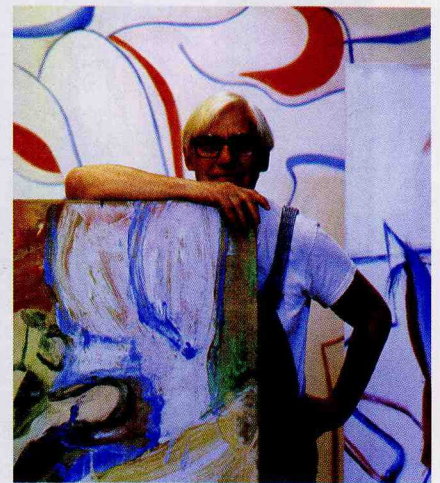


AUCTIONS

HOUSE CALL

Great design is best appreciated in its natural habitat. Which is why the sale of the Fould-Springer collection by Christie's, France, marks such a rare occasion. Valued at more than \$7 million in total, the nearly 1,000 works of neoclassical art and furniture will be shown in situ at the spectacular Royaumont Abbey palace, a 1780s Palladian residence outside Chantilly.

Designed by architect Louis Le Masson, the mansion was purchased in 1923 by the Baron and Baroness Fould-Springer and restored to its original splendor. Its current owner (their grandchild Nathaniel de Rothschild, son of the late philanthropist Liliane) is keeping the house, but its contents stand on their own. *September 16-21; christies.com* —SAMUEL COCHRAN



EXHIBITIONS

Brushing Up

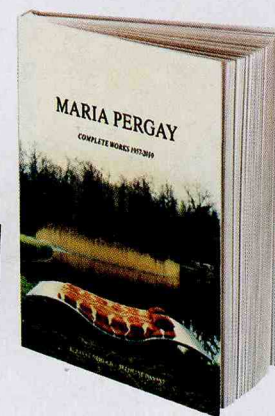
Manhattan's Museum of Modern Art is an apt setting for the first major retrospective of Willem de Kooning (1904-1997), the seminal Abstract Expressionist and member of New York City's midcentury avant-garde. On display: more than 200 works spanning the painter's seven-decade career, from his black-and-white compositions executed in oil and enamel to examples from his landmark "Woman" series. *September 18, 2011-January 9, 2012; moma.org* —s.c.



BOOKS

PRECIOUS METAL

It's been more than 40 years since French furniture designer Maria Pergay exhibited the stainless-steel pieces that would catapult her career to great heights (among them a sinuous bench now in the collection of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art). Her contributions to the decorative arts hardly stopped there, as the new monograph *Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010* (Damiani) reveals. —s.c.



Left: A circa-1970 corner sofa by Maria Pergay.

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