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Irish-based designers in mid-century modern sale

Works by Laois-based Zelouf and Bell, office desks and chairs to feature at Adams sale

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Zelouf and Bell Four Seasons Cocktail Cabinet, €10,000-€15,000.

When it comes to recognition in the world of craft and design, there can be few higher accolades than when The [National Museum of Ireland](#) chooses to include pieces of work as part of its permanent collection.

At the forthcoming Adam's Mid-Century Modern sale – postponed from November 3rd and due now to take place in a live and online auction Tuesday, December 15th at their St Stephen's Green showrooms – there are two pieces by Irish-based design duo Zelouf and Bell.

Gallerist [Benoist Drut](#) of Maison Gerard in New York describes designs by the duo and their team of master craftsmen based in Co Laois as “precious, clever, refined, fearless and unexpected”, and Dr [Jennifer Goff](#), of the National Museum of Ireland, which houses pieces by the furniture makers, has referred to their work as “true modern classics”.

The *pièce de résistance* in the sale is the Four Seasons Cocktail Cabinet by Zelouf and Bell (lot 61, €10,000-€15,000). Though requiring a vast space to accommodate its 2m x 3m dimensions, the custom-built unit is one of a kind and is created from silvered sycamore with inlaid silver strings and an alabaster marble worktop.

The attention to detail is incredible, with leather-lined drawers, remote-controlled lighting and a [Liebherr](#) fridge that gently illuminates on opening against an iced mirrored interior.



A walnut revolving bar by Gianfranco Frattini for Bernini, €2,000- €3,000.

For smaller spaces the sale also lists a lovely walnut revolving bar by [Gianfranco Frattini](#) for Bernini. With tambour doors and a brass top, the piece dating from the 1960s, is a rather clever design; due to its low height it works as a drinks table as well as storage for your favourite tipples (lot 28, €2,000-€3,000).



A three-tier drinks trolley with brass detailing lacquered goat skin by Aldo Tura, €800-€1,200.

For apartments or those who only need space for the odd few bottles, lot 70 is a smart mid-century drinks trolley with brass detailing (€300-€500). The material it comprises is incredible; it appears at first sight to resemble malachite – with its deep grainy green hues – but it is actually lacquered goat skin creating a lovely contrast against the brass column detail (€800-€1,200).

This year there has been a huge demand for office desks as we eschew the kitchen table for a more permanent workspace. The second work in the sale by Zelouf and Bell is a super office desk. Its sleek design and hidden compartments would make a real statement in any home office (lot 40, €1,500-€2,000).

For smaller spaces the [Aldo Rossi](#) cherry desk is a neat alternative (lot 68, €1,500-€2,000) as is the Italian bird's eye maple desk from the 1950s (lot 92, €2,000-€3,000).



A 'Model N71' desk lamp, attributed to Eileen Gray, produced by Jumo €700- €1,000

For illumination, fans of [Eileen Gray](#) will be interested in the Model N71 desk lamp attributed to the Irish designer and produced by Jumo (lot 134, €700-€1,000) and the really lovely [Louis Kalff](#) desk lamp in blue – with a bit of a spaceship theme – from the 1960s (lot 62, €400-€600).

The sale features three wonderful sets of chairs; the first is a set of six Model 602 by Gio Ponti from 1955, accompanied with certificates from the Gio Ponti Archives (lot 21, €4,000-€6,000). Also in there is a set of eight dining chairs by Ico Parisi, with a certificate of authenticity from the Ico Parisi Archives (lot 77, €3,000-€5,000) and lastly a set of six teak Model 75 chairs by [Niels Otto Møller](#) (lot 14, €2,000-€3,000).

For smaller spaces, a pair of Model Luisa chrome folding chairs by [Marcello Cuneo](#) for Mobel Italia from the 1970s would be a great solution for extra – but sleek – seating that can be neatly stored away until required (lot 82, €500-€800).

The highlight in the seating selection are a pair of iconic Costela Rib chairs by legendary designers [Martin Eisler](#) and [Carlo Hauner](#), made from Brazilian rosewood from the 1950s (lot 30, €6,000-€8,000).

Adam's has a great **You Tube video** highlighting some of the items for sale on its website. Not only does it show lots featured, it also demonstrates how well contemporary art sits beside mid-century design.

Some of the most interesting art pieces are two large diptychs that patrons of the **Shelbourne Hotel** might well remember from the foyer of the Dublin institution.



Cian McLoughlin's diptych of Didi and Gogo from the Shelbourne Hotel foyer €6,000- €10,000



Cian McLoughlin's diptych of Pozzo and Lucky from the Shelbourne Hotel foyer €6,000-€10,000

Both paintings, which were commissioned by the hotel and created by artist Cian McLoughlin, depict characters from Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, and were part of the series of work that McLoughlin – with support from the Gate Theatre – produced in 2006 to celebrate the centenary of the 1969 Nobel Prize winner for literature.

Lot 19 of Didi and Gogo (€6,000-€10,000) and Pozzo and Lucky (lot 20 also €6,000-€10,000) are fine mementos from what the British Royal National Theatre poll in 1998, voted “the most significant English play of the 20th century”.

Another remarkable work is the mammoth *Raman*; a large-scale abstract painting by [Mark Francis](#), which the catalogue describes as a “superb example of his trademark wet-on-wet technique” (lot 54, €15,000-€20,000).

Two works by artist [John Boyd](#) feature: lot 6, *Echo* is listed at €3,000-€5,000 and the interesting *Megrum* with two characters set against a cerulean blue background (lot 81) is seeking €2,000-€4,000.