

**Diego GIACOMETTI (1902-1985)**

**GUÉRIDON ARBRE (1964 or before)  
(first version)**

Bronze with a brown black patina, shade by  
green oxidations

*H : 72 cm, W : 72 cm, D : 41 cm*

Artist cast, directly bought from the art studio,  
private collection Paris, then by descendants.

(N° UDB : 190405)

Cast in 1964



Diego Giacometti was often considered as a discreet personality, who has always lived in the shadow of his brother Alberto. Out of work in 1925, he followed the advices of his mother and came from Switzerland to Paris « We will take care of Alberto, mon son »; they already lived together, at the 46 rue Hippolythe Maindron in 1926.

He became his intimate, the person who was always here for him, the patient model and his talented and diligent assistant preparing the iron structures, moulding, stone and marble ... In brief, the little brother who has always seemed to be lost in his own life became quickly the stowage and the daily protector of Alberto existence.

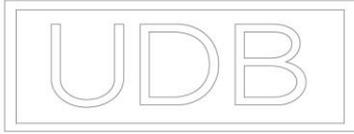
With Diego's help, Alberto created decorative objects for Jean Michel Franck in the 1930's. These pieces are composed with pure lines and shapes which make them universal, lamps, lights, low reliefs and bouquet doors, etc... At the end of this decade, Diego begun to create his own decorative objects.

From those, only few pieces are known, because of the War, then because he devoted his time to help his big brother who got a worldwide prominence after 1947. During this period, Diego created two chairs for the painter-designer Christian Berard. He worked alone, considered himself as an "artisan-meublier" and got more and more commissions, mainly from Galleries and Art dealers, like Aimé Maeght, Pierre Matisse et Daniel Kahnweiler.

In June 1961, he established in a house bought by his brother at 16 rue du Moulin-Vert and continued to enrich his decorative productions with furnitures, armchairs, stools, guéridons and lights.

But it is only after Alberto's death in 1966 that his production increased, above all in his last fifteen years. He was always reluctant to sign his pieces, respecting his brother memory, in spite of the insistence of his dealer in New York, Pierre Matisse. He has signed only at the beginning of the 1970's, few pieces, and just with the monogram DG or his first name. Getting older, Diego got three assistants and the last will be Phillipe Anthonioz, who helped him for his last commission, maybe one of the most important, for the Picasso museum, 1983-1985.

His inspirations come from Greek, Roman and Egyptian Antiquity but he was also inspired a naturalistic influence, fully expressed in our *Guéridon arbre, first version*, manufactured in 1964.



## THE GUERIDONS

The *Guéridon-arbre (first version)* which can be dated before or circa 1964<sup>1</sup>, could follow the *Guéridon bourgeon* (1962) and have been created before the *Guéridon arbre, second version* (owl, mouse, etc.) from the 70-80's with thinner elements. The *Guéridon racine* is the fourth of the serie for which one example is only identified in the reference documentation. At last, a *Petit Guéridon arbre* exists, which means that we currently know five different models.

For the first version of the *Guéridon arbre*, three examples are currently identified, our and two others in the reference documentation. Nevertheless, approximately forty examples of the second version from the 70-80 decade are known, with a thinner central leg, more branches and an animal, "élève de classe" from the Bestiary ; more decorative and less impressive, less "Alberto".

By the chiselling quality and the beautiful black brown patina with oxydation green traces, by the fine architecture of the structure, this *Guéridon arbre, première version* manufactured in 1964 with the usual assembling technique<sup>2</sup>, belongs to the first part of the production, production of excellence<sup>3</sup> : the «artist examples », which were produced, chiselled and patinated entirely by himself.

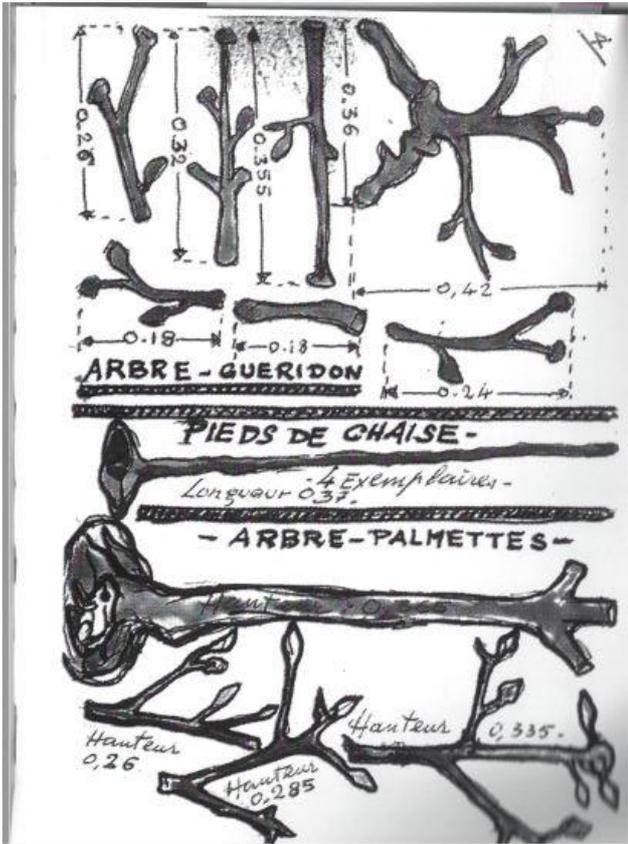
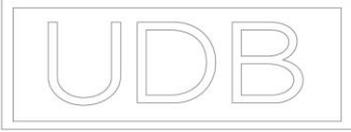


Diego Giacometti Studio

<sup>1</sup> Not circa 1978 as it was considered until now; « a posteriori », his style corresponds to the period of the 1960's (strong branches, simple composition).

<sup>2</sup> In his creative process, Diego joins the essential components by welding them (ILL.1, for the drawing of the *petit guéridon arbre*), which allows to create assembling variations. The elements are cast with the sand cast technique ; the assembling and the chiselling are then controlled by him as the patina, in which he was excellent, known as « l'As des patines ». He continues the « Artiste-Artisan » tradition after, Barye et Fratin, his predecessors from the last century. The pointing of the welding joints (ILL.2) on our *Guéridon* presents the production process.

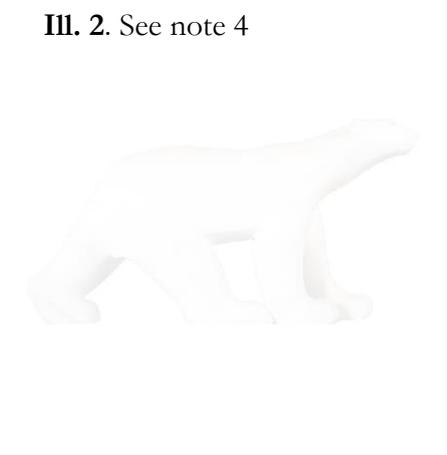
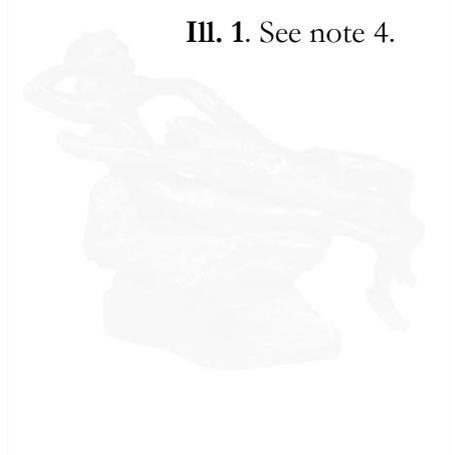
<sup>3</sup> After that, some wrote : « Inhérent au bronze, la patine lui confère sa nuance, sa vibration et sa profondeur. Comme la lumière qui s'y accroche, elle anime la surface de l'objet ; Diego les aime dorée, brune ou noir ; plus tardivement vert-jade. Celle-ci caractéristique des dernières années de sa vie a à nos yeux moins d'attrait. Perdant progressivement la vue et la sensibilité aux couleurs, il ne peut retrouver la qualité d'antan ; la matière, autrefois épaisse et riche se fait plus incertaine, le bronze moins tactile » (C. Boutonnet & R. Ortiz, *Giacometti DIEGO*, Paris, Éditions de l'Amateur, Galerie Arc en Seine, 2003, page 136)

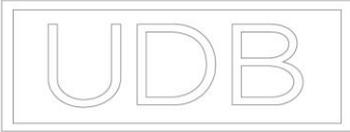


III. 1. See note 4.

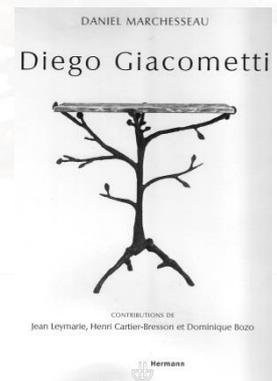


III. 2. See note 4





### I. Guéridon-arbre, first version<sup>4</sup> :



### 3 Guéridons-arbre, first version, ours and two in the documentation essentielle :

- Paris, Univers du Bronze, UDB 190405 (tinted glass).
- *Diego Giacometti, Catalogue de l'œuvre, F.Francisci, 1986 (tinted glass).*
- *Diego Giacometti, F.Baudot, 1998 ; Diego Giacometti, D.Marchesseau, 2005 (marbre).*

### II. Guéridon-arbre, second version, C.1970-1980<sup>5</sup>:

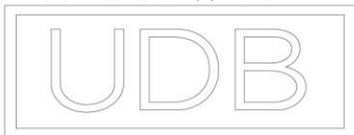


#### <sup>4</sup> . Documentation essentielle :

- *Diego Giacometti, Catalogue de l'œuvre, F.Francisci, Edition Eolia, 1986, vol.1, p.17, ill.12, 1<sup>er</sup> exemplaire.*
- *Diego Giacometti, F.Baudot, Editions Assoulines, 1998, ill. page de couverture et p.54, 2<sup>ème</sup> exemplaire.*
- *Diego Giacometti, D.Marchesseau, publié chez Hermann, 2005, p.69, 2<sup>ème</sup> exemplaire.*
- *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meubles, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.154, 2<sup>ème</sup> exemplaire.*

#### <sup>5</sup> . Documentation essentielle :

- *Giovanni, Augusto, Alberto, Diego Giacometti, Fundación Cultural Televisa, Mexico, 1987, 1<sup>er</sup> exemplaire.*
- *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meubles, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.155, 2<sup>ème</sup> exemplaire.*
- *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meubles, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.151, 3<sup>ème</sup> exemplaire.*



### 41 Guéridons-arbre, Second version :

- Christie's, 12 november 2018, United States, lot 14/G: **Hammer Price : € 756 007**
- Sotheby's, 31 october 2017, France, lot 123 : **Hammer Price : € 300 000**
- Phillips, 13 december 2016, United States, lot 408: **Hammer Price : € 281 910**
- Sotheby's, 24 may 2016, France, lot 56 : **Hammer Price : € 360 000**
- Sotheby's, 20 june 2013, United Kingdom, lot 312 : **Hammer Price : € 221 863**
- Sotheby's, 6 february 2013, United Kingdom, lot 125 : **Hammer Price : € 302 380**
- Sotheby's, 6 february 2013, United Kingdom, lot 124 : **Hammer Price : € 360 530**
- Sotheby's, 7 november 2012, United States, lot 306: **Hammer Price : € 257 862**
- Sotheby's, 7 november 2012, United States, lot 307: **Hammer Price : € 265 676**
- Christie's, 21 june 2012, United Kingdom, lot 388 : **Hammer Price : € 198 320**
- Sotheby's, 20 june 2012, United States, lot 107: **Hammer Price : € 192 603**
- Christie's, 14 june 2012, United States, lot 197: **Hammer Price : € 119 700**
- Sotheby's, 09 february 2012, United Kingdom, lot 194 (au sourceau): **Hammer Price : € 131 73**
- Christie's, 8 february 2012, United Kingdom, lot 557 : **Hammer Price : € 156 442**
- Christie's, 5 may 2011, United States, lot 355 : **Hammer Price : € 117 914**
- Sotheby's, 4 may 2011, United States, lot 393 : **Hammer Price : € 74 184**
- Sotheby's, 6 december 2010, United States, lot 58 : **Hammer Price : € 75 050**
- Christie's, 24 june 2009, United Kingdom, lot 326 : **Hammer Price : € 87 885**
- Camard & Associés (Drouot), 6 april 2009, United States, lot 62 : **Hammer Price : € 80 000**
- Millon (Drouot), 27 june 2007, France, lot 153 : **Hammer Price : € 67 000**
- Christie's, 24 may 2005, France, lot 115 : **Hammer Price : € 92 000**
- Sotheby's, 4 may 2005, United States, lot 268 : **Hammer Price : € 46 560**
- Galerie du Rhone, 21 june 2003, Suisses, lot 597 : **Hammer Price : Non vendu**
- Sotheby's, 9 may 2002, United States, lot 219 : **Hammer Price : € 110 600**
- Sotheby's, 27 june 2001, United Kingdom, lot 200 : **Hammer Price : Non vendu**
- Christie's, 9 november 2000, United States, lot 253 : **Hammer Price : € 104 426**
- Christie's, 29 june 2000, United Kingdom, lot 301: **Hammer Price : € 152 381**
- Christie's, 10 may 2000, United States, lot 651: **Hammer Price : € 175 592**
- Sotheby's, 12 may 1999, United States, lot 355: **Hammer Price : € 123 062**
- Christie's, 20 november 1998, United States, lot 757: **Hammer Price : € 77 736**
- Sotheby's, 14 may 1998, United States, lot 256: **Hammer Price : € 109 282**
- Christie's, 13 may 1998, United States, lot 333: **Hammer Price : € 113 565**
- Sotheby's, 13 november 1997, United States, lot 358: **Hammer Price : € 52 690**
- Christie's, 15 may 1997, United States, lot 303: **Hammer Price : € 174 426**
- Christie's, 15 december 1996, Monaco, lot 90: **Hammer Price : € 228 675**
- Christie's, 11 may 1994, United States, lot 349: **Hammer Price : € 58 083**
- Sotheby's, 21 february 1990, United Kingdom, lot 144 : **Hammer Price : € 32 487**
- Sotheby's, 6 october 1989, United States, lot 234 : **Hammer Price : € 61 041**
- Sotheby's, 3 december 1986, United Kingdom, lot 262 : **Hammer Price : € 41 618**
- Sotheby's, 8 october 1986, United States, lot 329 : **Hammer Price : € 32 014**
- Christie's, 25 march 1986, United Kingdom, lot 34 : **Hammer Price : € 57 626**



### III. Guéridon aux bourgeons, H. 45,3 cm, C. 1962<sup>6</sup> :



<sup>6</sup> . Documentation essentielle : - Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meubles, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.152.



### **2 Guéridons aux bourgeons:**

- Christie's, 21 June 2011, United Kingdom, lot 24: **Hammer Price: € 611 982**
- *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meubles, D.Marchesseau, 2018.*

### **IV. Guéridon racines (avec ou sans hibou), C.1964<sup>7</sup> :**



### **2 Guéridons racines:**

- Christie's, 21 June 2011, United States, lot 309: **Hammer Price: € 82 698.**
- *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meuble, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.153 et p.154.*

<sup>7</sup> Documentation essentielle : - *Diego Giacometti, sculpteur de meuble, D.Marchesseau, Edition du Regard, 2018, ill. p.153 et p.154.*