SOOTHEBY’S

Edward Steichen
Wind Fire—Thérèse Duncan, Acropolis, 1921
Gelatin silver contact print
Estimate: $120–180,000
October 6

Steichen took this photograph of Isadora Duncan’s daughter early in his career, before joining Condé Nast and long before his stint at New York’s Museum of Modern Art, where he organized the seminal “Family of Man” exhibition in 1955. He had been traveling in Venice in 1921 when the elder Duncan convinced him to travel with her and her dance troupe to Greece. There he shot Thérèse, tilting the photo Wind Fire after the noise her fluttering dress made.

CHRISTIE’S

Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey
Rome. T. de la concorde. Ent. Inter., 1842
Daguerreotype
Estimate: $45–65,000
October 7

This single-artist sale comprises 74 de Prangey daguerreotypes from the estate of a private European collector. De Prangey was among the first masters of Daguerre’s process, and he cut many of his silver-coated copper plates by hand. This example, showing the top of a colonnade in Rome, is one of many taken during his Grand Tour of Italy and Greece. The auction is estimated to take in more than $2 million.

PHILLIPS DE PURY & CO.

Harry Callahan
Eleanor, Detroit, 1942
Gelatin silver print
Estimate: $15–20,000
October 8

A self-taught photographer, Callahan trained his experimental lens on nature, urban streets, architecture, and his wife, Eleanor. He had an innovative visual vocabulary, combining an engineer’s understanding of structure with an intuitive sense of composition and balance. Sometimes Callahan reduces a scene to its simplest form; at others he conflates several images so that each is barely recognizable—as in this photo.

—JCH

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

Dream Buildings | Bruce Goff, a trailblazer of the organic-architecture movement, began his career in a way more reminiscent of Michelangelo than of modern art students, apprenticing in 1916 at age 12 with an architectural firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He went on to design around 500 varied and highly idiosyncratic projects before his death, in 1982.

“Bruce Goff: A Creative Mind,” at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art of the University of Oklahoma from October 9 through January 2, 2011, focuses on the architect’s designs that were never realized or for which the buildings were demolished; one major exception is the magnificent Bavinger House, still standing in Norman. The show’s approach is as creative as its subject, using animation in addition to the usual models to bring his plans to life. Twelve three-minute films in which Skyline Ink studio animates Goff’s original drawings and images allow viewers to explore his genius from the inside out.

The Goff show is not the museum’s only architectural venture. Its new Stuart Wing, which will house the massive Eugene B. Adkins collection it acquired in 2007 as well as a 4,500-square-foot photography gallery, is slated to open in October 2011.

—ALYSSA PAVLEY

Perfect Prisms: Crystal Chapel, 2009, a Bruce Goff recreation by Ellen Sandor, Chris Kemp, Chris Day, Ben Carney, and Miguel Delgado.