



Item Code	1975 65
Title	<i>Festoon</i>
Year	1975 (1976)
Material	brass
Dimensions	143 x 28 x 30 cm.
Signed	no
Provenance	Rome, Alberto Grimaldi collection Rome, Finarte, auction no. 544, 6 May 1986, lot no. 35
Notes	In the catalogue of Finarte auction no. 544 held on 6 May 1986, lot no. 35, the work appears under the title: 'Indecisions'
Auctions	Finarte, Rome, auction no. 544, Contemporary Works of Art from the Grimaldi collection, 6 May 1986, lot no. 35
Literature	Germano Celant, <i>Melotti. Catalogo generale. Tomo II. Sculture 1973-1986 e Bassorilievi</i> , Electa, Milan, 1994, n. 1975 65 p. 434 b/w ill.

FONDAZIONE FAUSTO MELOTTI

Fausto Melotti (1901–86) was a 20th century Italian artist. Born in Rovereto, he made a name for himself thanks to his skill in creating in his work a world rich in poetry and delicate harmony.

Initially training as an engineer and musician, Melotti later devoted his energies exclusively to art, developing a unique style that reflected his profound aesthetic sensitivity and his vast knowledge of art history. His artistic output stretched from metal sculpture and ceramics to works on paper and musical and poetic compositions, displaying astonishing versatility and creativity.

Melotti spent most of his career in Milan, where he was influenced by the artistic and cultural mood of his day. His work is remarkable for its extraordinary attention to detail, its search for formal balance and its profound reflection on the themes of harmony and spirituality.

Celebrated for his brass sculptures, Melotti never tired of exploring new forms and materials, moving beyond the traditional confines of art and experimenting with new techniques and expressive styles. His work has been shown at countless international exhibitions and is to be found in major public and private collections throughout the world.

His artistic legacy continues to influence generations of contemporary artists and his contribution to the visual culture of the 20th century continues to be of crucial importance for our understanding and appreciation of Italian modern and contemporary art.

Festoon presents a composition of geometrical forms and flowing lines that interweave to form a compelling motif.

The sculpture is named for its festive aspect that conjures up the image of a festoon or garland. Melotti worked on the elements of this piece – small rods, discs, chains and brass ball bearings – with precision and skill, welding all of its component parts to create a harmonious structure.

The sculpture's elongated forms suggest a sense of movement and lightness, while the ornamental details add a note of sophistication and elegance to the work.

Festoon is remarkable for its ability to combine abstract and decorative elements in a harmonious and captivating composition.

The work belonged to the collection of Alberto Grimaldi, an Italian film producer who produced the films of Pasolini, Bertolucci and Fellini, among others. After an attempt was made to kidnap his three children in the late 1970s, he decided to leave Italy and to sell his art collection via the Finarte auction house. The auction catalogue reveals his sophisticated taste as a collector and contains fully nineteen sculptures by Fausto Melotti.

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Rudi Cerri