



## Eye-opener at Gerard's

NOTABLE New York dealers of distinctive and top-quality 20th century decorative arts, **Maison Gerard** have acquired a piece which can only be described as eye-catching.

Yonel Lebovici's *Les Yeux*, **left**, an iconic sculpture of a pair of blinking eyes in oxidised metal and aluminium, is the highlight of a Lebovici selling retrospective at Maison Gerard's Manhattan gallery at 53 East 10th Street from October 1 to 26.

This monumental 7ft x 8ft (2.14 x 2.44m) sculpture, plus 60 other pieces, will form the most comprehensive exhibition of the work of the French pop and punk artist outside France.

The vast majority of the pieces have never been seen in the United States. *Les Yeux* itself has been in a private collection since it was commissioned in 1987 by a Paris antique dealer to sit in the window of his Rue de Seine shop and stop the passers-by as the motorised 'eyes' open and close, allowing just a tantalising, mid-blink, glimpse into the interior.

Lebovici's sculptures seldom come on the market and most are in two large French private collections. I understand that what does appear for sale has increased in price almost ten-fold since the artist's death in 1998. At Maison Gerard *Les Yeux* cost \$275,000.