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## **'MAVERICK'**

*An Exhibition to Celebrate 25 Years of Themes and Variations*

**18<sup>th</sup> November – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

Themes & Variations is delighted to announce **'MAVERICK'** a landmark exhibition of pioneering post-war and contemporary design, to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The show explores the theme of continuity and change in design over the past quarter century. It features outstanding work by a selection of the artists the gallery has introduced to a wider audience. Historic pieces by artists including Ettore Sottsass and Bridget Riley are shown alongside established work by Tom Dixon and André Dubreuil and new furniture by emerging talents created exclusively for the occasion.

The exhibition revisits the black and white aesthetic with which the gallery opened in November 1984. One of the highlights of the inaugural show was a display of the iconic, monochrome Themes & Variations designs by Piero Fornasetti which inspired the name of the gallery. For the founder Liliane Fawcett, ("a pioneer with vision..." Helen Kirwan-Taylor, FT 1997) the name perfectly expresses the non-conformist nature of developments in design: "Our clients have always relied on us for the timeless pieces that rise above trends and are true reflections of an era."

When Themes and Variations first opened its doors, the London design scene was in its infancy and Notting Hill was uncharted territory. Originally a garage with a scrap metal merchant for a neighbour, the gallery described by Le Monde in 2008 as "a...mythical...astonishing gallery of contemporary objects" has played a significant role in both the regeneration of the area, and the development of design in London, securing its reputation for anticipating new trends in a constantly evolving market.

Today it is recognised as one of the world's leading specialists in post war and contemporary design, with particular strengths in French and Italian decorative arts and furniture.

The designer, Tom Dixon, pays tribute to the gallery's continuing success, "Themes & Variations is the original London manifestation of design/art, constantly challenging the established norms of value and taste in the most intelligent and unique way."

For further information and images, please contact Themes & Variations :

231 Westbourne Grove  
London W11 2SE  
Tel. + 44 (0) 20 7727 5531

email: [go@themesandvariations.com](mailto:go@themesandvariations.com)  
[www.themesandvariations.com](http://www.themesandvariations.com)  
Fax + 44 (0) 20 7221 6378