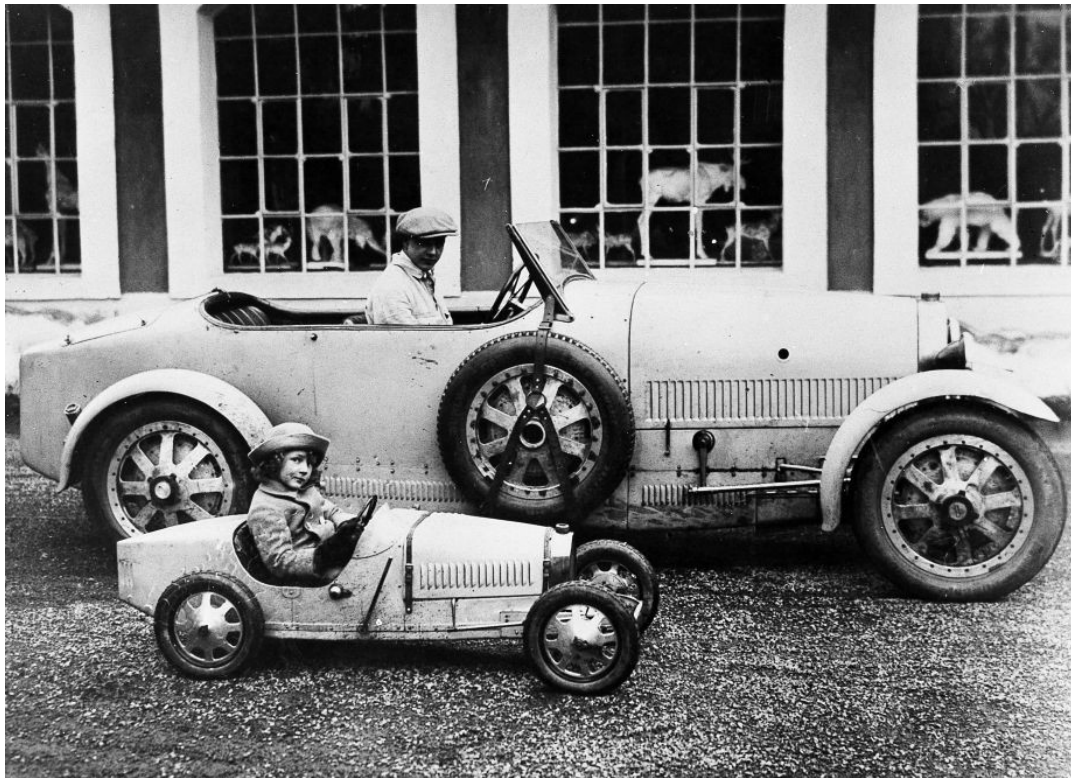


THE BRILLIANT BUGATTIS

Treasure House Fair to stage
The most important UK exhibition on the Bugatti family
in almost half a century

Sculpture, decorative arts and cars by four generations of virtuoso creators
to go on view during London's flagship summer art fair

Royal Hospital Chelsea, 26 June – 1 July 2025



Ettore Bugatti's sons, Jean and Roland, respectively in a Type 43 Grand Sport and a Type 52 Baby Bugatti
Chateau Saint Jean, France, with sculptures by Rembrandt Bugatti visible through the windows *circa* 1930

Rarely in history has a dynasty of artists exerted more fascination than the Bugattis. Through their considerable talent, fertile imaginations, technical virtuosity and pioneering flamboyance, four generations of creators have all produced completely unique bodies of work, with each making immense contributions to the world of art, design and automotives in their time. This summer, their oeuvre will be brought together in a landmark exhibition and special feature of the 2025 Treasure House Fair.

The Brilliant Bugattis will be the first exhibition on this *virtuoso* family in the UK since the pioneering show at the Royal College of Art, London in 1979. A treasure trove of 30 artworks, designs and cars, this non-selling exhibition will feature pieces by the family patriarch, **Carlo** (1856-1940) - a true Renaissance man who could design anything to perfection, from furniture to silverware; his sons - the genius animal sculptor **Rembrandt** (1884-1916) and the epoch-defining car engineer **Ettore** (1881-1946); and his grandson, **Jean** (1909-1939) whose car design significantly contributed to the fame of the Bugatti name today.

This show is being curated by Edward Horswell, a world-renowned authority on artworks relating to the Bugatti family. It will feature rarely seen pieces loaned by some of today's most important Bugatti collectors. Marrying the functional and the aesthetic with exceptional execution, these pieces will offer a unique insight into this extraordinary family and its tradition of artistry and design.

Edward Horswell, curator of the exhibition said: *"The multi-generational accomplishments of Carlo, Ettore, Rembrandt and Jean are phenomenal. Beside their immense creative range, each of them were pioneers of their respective fields, creating completely new aesthetics, and demonstrating an unabated pursuit for perfection. We hope this exhibition will shed light on their individual genius, as well as the characteristics that typify all their work – aplomb, stylisation, functional inventiveness and above all, beauty."*



Chair and desk, *circa* 1904 made by Carlo Bugatti for his long-time friend Giovanni Giacometti, and thereafter in the studio of Alberto Giacometti

Carlo Bugatti, a prodigious designer

Highlights will include some of Carlo's most iconic and inventive furniture designs. Recently rediscovered by design *aficionados*, Carlo created an entirely new aesthetic, which, at the turn-of-the-20th-century, was sought-after by the international elite and influenced many. Drawing influence from Islamic and Japanese decorative traditions, as well as Romanesque architecture, his furniture incorporated pieces of parchment, vellum, inlaid with pewter, brass and a variety of wood veneers.

The display will feature **a chair and desk, circa 1904 made by the Italian designer for his long-time friend Giovanni Giacometti**, painter and father of Alberto Giacometti. The set created in Carlo's distinctive and instantly recognisable style, with abundant use of parchment and painted decorations, was a central piece of the Giacometti's studio in Stampa, Switzerland and is recorded in several paintings by Giovanni and Alberto. The exhibition will also include a rare silver tea set – unique for the period and a testament to both Carlo's inventive imagination and his rapid mastery of working with silver.



The artist Alberto Giacometti in his studio in Stampa, Switzerland

Rembrandt Bugatti, a genius sculptor

Carlo's second son, the aptly named Rembrandt, is today widely recognised as one of the most talented sculptors of the early 20th century. In a career that spanned little more than a dozen years before it was cut short in 1916 by his tragic suicide at the age of 31, Rembrandt created a prodigious body of work displaying huge technical finesse, formal beauty, intensity of expression and subtle stylistic inventiveness. Inspired by the sculptor's frequent visits to the Paris and Antwerp zoos, his bronze menagerie uniquely captures the essence

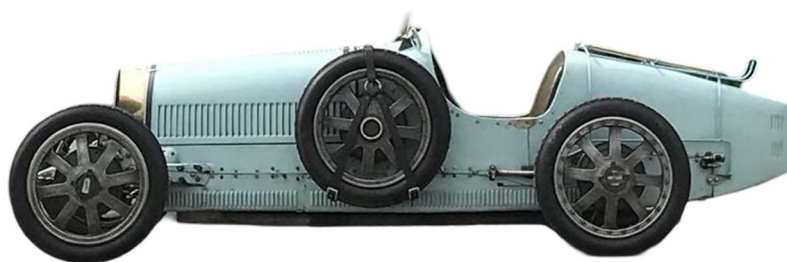
and movement of his animal models. Rembrandt's uncommon acuity of observation and innate sense of empathy is also evident in the selection of sculptures in this exhibition, which will include *Yawning Lioness* (1903) and *Yawning Hippopotamus* (1905) (illustrated below).



Ettore and Jean Bugatti, two creative visionaries

For the wider public, the name of Bugatti is associated with car racing and masterworks of automotive engineering and design. The fame surrounding the brand with its red and white oval radiator badge is entirely due to the pioneering vision of Carlo's eldest son, Ettore. Between 1899, when he built his first vehicle and his death in 1947, the world witnessed the birth of the automobile industry – a technical revolution in which Bugatti was a driving force.

Having been trained, like Rembrandt, in the studio of his father from an early age, Ettore was a man of many talents who was unswayed by the work of those around him. A self-trained automotive engineer and manufacturer of racing, sport and touring cars, he was also an architect, ship builder, aeronautical engine designer and a horse breeder who, over his life, patented more than 1,000 inventions, from safety razors and pasta machines to tools for making parts for his own engine production. The cars he and his son, Jean designed in the first half of the 20th century are today credited as some of the fastest and most glamorous ever built.



The Treasure House Fair exhibition will include a prime example dating from 1925 – the year that marked the start of Bugatti’s supremacy on Europe’s racing tracks. Completely original and regularly used by its owner, **this Type 39 works Grand Prix car** still features its original GP body. Its inclusion in this exhibition marks the centenary of its first appearance at Monza in September 1925.

The Brilliant Bugattis will be staged in a dedicated exhibition space within the main hall of the Fair, neighbouring a host of internationally-renowned galleries who will be returning for the Treasure House Fair’s third edition.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT EDWARD HORSWELL

Edward Horswell has lived alongside Bugatti’s work for some fifty years. He joined the Sladmore Gallery in 1975 and ten years later took over as director, since which time he has been at the forefront of promoting a renewed interest in this sculptor’s work. The gallery has collaborated with and loaned exhibits to all the recent museum shows devoted to Rembrandt Bugatti, including the Alte Nationalgalerie in Berlin and the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, as well as mounting its own series of exhibitions of his work in London.

ABOUT THE TREASURE HOUSE ART FAIR

London’s pre-eminent interdisciplinary art fair, The Treasure House Fair was founded in 2023 by Thomas Woodham-Smith and Harry Van der Hoorn – the co-founders of *Masterpiece Art Fair* (2009-2022). Brought to life in less than six months following the closure of *Masterpiece*, the fair’s first edition set in the beautiful grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea offered a fresh and bold remastering of London’s traditional summer fair, with a promise to preserve the event’s international renown for expertise and exceptional quality. Emboldened by the success of its first two editions, the fair returns in 2025 with a larger space, sustainable innovations and materials used throughout, and an extended roster of exhibitors.



Rembrandt Bugatti, (Italian, 1884-1916), *Lioness Yawning*, 1903, Bronze

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TREASURE HOUSE FAIR

Dates: 26th June – 1st July 2025

Location: Royal Hospital Chelsea
South Grounds London, SW3 4SR

Treasurehousefair.com

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