**PIERO FORNASETTI**

(1913 – 1988, Italy)

Piero Fornasetti was an Italian painter, sculptor, interior decorator and engraver. He was born in a well off bourgeois family in Milan where he lived most of his life. He created one of the wide collection of items and furniture of the XX century. His work is characterized by the variety of its decoration, the rigour, the wide fantasy, and the hide humour. It was often realized in limited edition. Fornasetti is considered one of the most influential and important person for the Italian culture and industrial design. The Fornasetti’s art is inspired by the italian painters Piero della Francesca and Giotto, the frescoes from Pompeii and from the Renaissance period and the Metaphysical painting.

Since 1933 Piero Fornasetti attended the Triennial exhibitions in Milano with a series of printed silk scaves. He met Gio Ponti at the VII Triennial in 1940. They started a long cooperation. From 1943 to 1946 Fornasetti moved to Switzerland and began to realise playbills and lithographs for magazines and theatrical performances. In 1970 he directed the Galleria dei Bibliofili. Here he could exhibit not only his own production but also the works of other contemporay artists. In 1980 he opened *Tema e variazioni* shop in London bringing his art abroad.

In 1950 he realised *Sole*, a lacque wood chair with a sun decoration. Piero Fornasetti and Gio Ponti realised the first complete furnishing for *Casa Lucano*. In 1952 he decorated the interior of the Andrea Doria and Conte Grande transatlantics. He died in 1988.