

## Jayne Design Studio Redecorates Historic Room for Inaugural 1stdibs Virtual Designer Showhouse



**New York, New York (June 2020)** - Renowned NYC-based design firm Jayne Design Studio presents their design for the first-ever 1stdibs Virtual Designer Showhouse. The firm's decorators, Thomas Jayne and William Cullum, have reimagined the dining room in London's historic Lansdowne House, now in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and recently reinterpreted as part of the opening of the British galleries. Jayne and Cullum's redesign features new furnishings, all available through 1stdibs.

Designed by Scottish neoclassical architect and interior designer Robert Adam for Great Britain's

Prime Minister John Stuart, Lansdowne House was sold in 1765, one year into its building, to William Petty-Fitzmaurice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Shelburne and later Prime Minister as well. Lansdowne was completed in 1768 for Lord Shelburne from Adam's original plans, and the home served as a social and political gathering place for the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Eventually, the home was converted into a club in 1930, and a year later, the dining room was bought by The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The central structure of Lansdowne remains at the southwest corner of Berkeley Square, London.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art displays the dining room as unfurnished, and Jayne and Cullum chose it, in part, for this reason. Cullum notes, "We wanted a beautiful and important room that doesn't rely on its decorative arts, but rather it's architectural quality. The room is relatively ornate, but was sparsely decorated, even in its time - we saw this as an opportunity to reinvent it as a great room with multiple functions." They imagined the possibilities of taking this historically important space and bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century without diminishing its iconic Georgian features - in this case, the plaster ceiling, nine Italian marble statues, fancy carvings and elaborate columns and fireplace. Jayne adds, "The room has personality and takes decoration well. We wanted to bring a joyful quality into a room with a lot of austerity, giving it an artistic, Victorian quality, as if the house had stayed in the family and matured throughout the years."

Originally a single function dining or "eating room", Jayne and Cullum approached the redesign with the modern idea of studio living, creating multiple dining and seating spaces within the vast room. The pair took artistic license with the paint scheme by taking cues from another room in Lansdowne. It is more colorful than its restored period appearance shown at The Met, while not completely eschewing historic precedent. The furnishings mix periods and crafts throughout the ages in both traditional and contemporary styles.

The reimagined space demonstrates Jayne Design Studio's "ancient and modern" philosophy, one that is respectful of its historic qualities and maintains the original room's spirit, while befitting modern living. The reigning importance here is of both old and new, and the inherent comfort found in traditional decoration.