

Buyer's guide

Dutch lighting

Mid-century Dutch lighting remains an underappreciated area for UK collectors – for now. As its popularity grows, we ask *Sophie Pearce*, co-founder of Béton Brut design store (betonbrut.co.uk) to share her knowledge on the key designers and pieces to seek out.



It was her business partner, Augustus Greaves, who first introduced Sophie to Dutch lighting, having 'discovered' it on a visit to the Netherlands seven years ago. The pair were drawn to its brazen simplicity – architectural lines set against primary shapes and colours – and its scarcity. It's virtually absent from the mid-century scene in the UK, with only a handful of specialist dealers, making it all the more appealing to collectors.

What defines the aesthetic of Dutch lighting?

Dutch lighting is definitely for purists. The aesthetic is minimal and pared back, with a quiet sense of fun. They clearly took their cue from their better known Italian contemporaries, such as Gino Sarfatti, Stilnovo and Arredoluce. But they stripped it back further, often working solely within the bounds of straight lines, perfect circles and primary colours, in keeping with the principles of the De Stijl and Bauhaus design movements.

Have you noticed any buying trends in relation to Dutch lighting?

It's going the way Italian lighting did in the last few decades – up in value and recognition.

The humble Pinnokio lamp has tripled in value in the last five years. Dutch lighting design is still woefully underrated in the UK, although I don't see this lasting for long. Online marketplaces like 1st Dibs have led to an increase in interest from the States. British collectors will need to get in there quick if they want to stop a good haul disappearing across the pond!

Which designers should buyers look out for and what would be your top three pieces?

The principal designers are J.J.M. Hoogervorst for ANVIA, H. Fillekes for Artiforte, HthA Busquet for Hala and Louis Kalff for Phillips. Raak was also a key lighting producer. Other lesser known names include Willem Hagooort, Floris Fiedeldij and Niek Hiemstra.

My top three pieces would have to include the 1954 Magneto floor lamp by H. Fillekes for Artiforte. A rare and beautiful beast, it is made up of a counterbalanced nickel arm and black shade, which pivots on a substantial magnetic ball joint befitting its name. They were made to a



Previous: white chandelier by HthA Busquet for Hala. Left and right: Magneto floor lamp by H. Fillekes for Artiforte, 1954. All photographs courtesy of Béton Brut.

