

# TOWN & COUNTRY



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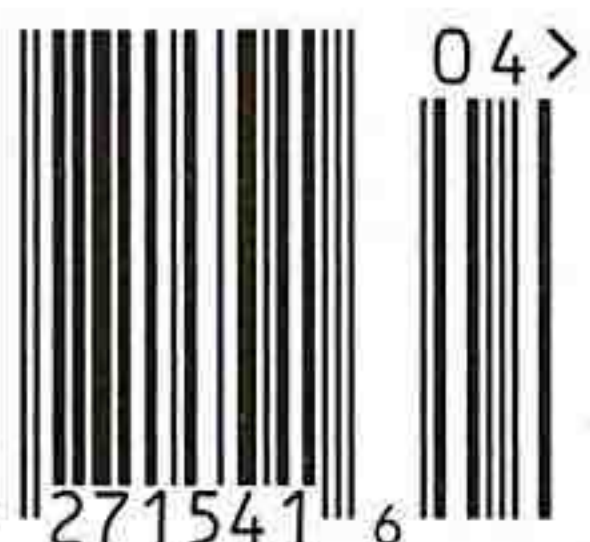
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Two panels from the *Chariot of Thetis* mural by Jean Dupas, which adorned the Grand Salon of the SS Normandie, are for sale at Maison Gerard. PAIR OF PANELS FROM THE SS NORMANDIE (\$118,400), MAISONGERARD.COM



## The GOLDEN AGE

### WHAT'S #VERYTANDC HERE?

**The history:** In Steven Soderbergh's latest film, *Let Them All Talk*, Meryl Streep, Candice Bergen, and Dianne Wiest play old friends who reunite for a journey from New York to England on the Queen Mary 2 (the movie was shot on the ship during one of her voyages, with natural light, minimal equipment, and real passengers on board). The women are not on a cruise, a distinction Streep's character, Alice, is keen to point out. "It's a crossing," she says. "Crossing time zones... Crossing into something unknown. A cruise just seems meandering and silly."

The last of her kind, the Queen Mary 2, crown jewel of the Cunard Line, recalls an era when maritime travel was a grand affair, when the journey mattered as much as the destination, and formal attire was required at dinner. For scenes in the dining room, the crew wore tuxedos.

Eighty-nine years ago, even the QM2's luxurious predecessors were eclipsed by the SS Normandie. Introduced in 1932, the French liner was a floating shrine to Art Deco and, with more first class cabins than second or third, a gilded refuge for the one percent. The dining room, lit with pillars of Lalique glass, was longer than

Versailles's Hall of Mirrors, and the Grand Salon was lined with soaring *verre églomisé* murals by Jean Dupas.

**The fans:** Marlene Dietrich, Frida Kahlo, Ernest Hemingway, and Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt all sailed on the Normandie.

**The news:** The Normandie's interiors were auctioned after the ship's fiery demise in 1942. One of the Dupas murals hangs in the Met. A few other pieces, including the panels here, have been acquired by New York gallery Maison Gerard, which means that, yes, they are now for sale. *Leena Kim*