

Press Information

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From: Duncan Phillips

duncanphillips@btinternet.

com

Tel: (0)1460 432090 /

07990 822620



CLARION ARTS

National Fair's Reputation Rises Above Difficult Trading Conditions

The 7th National Fine Art & Antiques Fair

In Association with LAPADA The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers

20 - 24 JANUARY 2010

Hall 11, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

'We've met many new clients who came to the fair because of its reputation for quality, and in these difficult times we've sold well and we are very pleased,' commented Stuart Parish of Barling Fine Porcelain from Essex at the close of The 7th National Fine Art & Antiques Fair held at the NEC from 20 – 24 January 2010.

Widely regarded as the first major antiques event of the New Year, this annual event featured more than 80 exhibitors and was opened enthusiastically by Judith Miller, the well-known TV presenter, authoress and antiques expert, with introductions from Earl Howe, Chairman of LAPADA, speaking to many of his members who exhibit at the fair.

Across the fair, ceramics proved most in demand with several specialists selling well, notably Barling Fine Porcelain, Mark & Sandra Diamond Antiques from London (who sold a fine and rare Coalport partners' inkstand for £1,650), Tony Horsley Antiques from Brighton, Ben Cooper from Herefordshire, and John Newton from East Yorkshire with Chinese ceramics.

Period furniture sales proved steady with a number of specialists with large displays finding new customers. W.R.Harvey (Antiques) Ltd from Witney were delighted to sell an early 19th century mahogany extending banqueting table, stamped by the makers, 'Whittington, Maker Bristol Patent' (also described as a Gillows type Imperial type dining table, though without a Gillows signature) that went to a private buyer for a figure in the region of £35,000. W.R.Harvey made a number of further sales including an impressive 18th century walnut escritoire that made a significant five-figure sum. Art Deco specialists Gazelles of Lyndhurst & London sold an important Italian console table by Bugatti, circa 1910, to a private buyer for £15,000.

Mark Buckley from Yorkshire made more than a dozen sales of 18th and 19th century pieces and Paul Burrows of Yoxall Antiques from Solihull sold a number of pieces to private buyers including a fine and small Regency mahogany chiffonier for £4,200. Robbie Timms of S.& S. Timms from Bedfordshire described business as 'tough' but

was pleased to be leaving in profit. Others reporting similar results included Mark Seabrook Antiques from Cambridgeshire, Sue Killinger from Great Missenden, Vaughan Antiques from Peterborough and Tim Wharton from Hertfordshire.

In other areas, affordable fine art proved particularly saleable. Baron Fine Art from Chester made more than a dozen sales of 19th and early 20th century watercolours; Paul Mayhew from London sold a fine watercolour painting of the Pembrokeshire coast by Sir William Russell Flint, among several others; Art World from the Cotswolds were pleased to have one of their most successful visits to the NEC, selling late 20th century and contemporary French oils and watercolours, Kenulf Fine Art from the Cotswolds sold more than a dozen paintings; The Hunt Gallery from Kent made several major sales, including one painting by Michael Hunt for a figure in excess of £20,000; while Victorian oil painting specialist Ryland Fine Art from Yorkshire made more than half-a-dozen sales of oil paintings. Miniature portrait specialist Cynthia Walmsley from Nottingham was very pleased with business after selling a rare work by John Smart for around £12,000. Neptune Fine Art from Derbyshire sold an early work by Mary Fedden for a five-figure sum.

Arts and Crafts and Art Deco items also found a keen demand. Solo Antiques from Lancashire was delighted with sales of Art Deco figures and glass. Other specialists selling well included arms and armour dealer Garth Vincent from Lincolnshire, scientific and medical implement specialist Chiltern Antiques from Henley-in-Arden and Brian Watson, the glass specialist from Norwich.

At the close of the fair, after a particularly busy weekend, the attendance figures were significantly higher than 2009. Organiser Tiffany Pritchard was pleased that the fair continues to be popular with regular collectors but has also commented on the number of sales made by dealers to new clients, which she described as most encouraging.

During this Fair the organisers took the opportunity to display alternative lighting options for the exhibitors and sought to achieve agreement from the NEC venue to dramatically reduce the lighting in this modern Hall. Tiffany explained: 'We are delighted that the NEC sanctioned the subdued lighting effect and can confirm the previously favoured décor will be in place next year'. This decision has been fully supported by the exhibitors with 40% already rebooking their positions for January 2011.

LAPADA Stand Awards

As customary at the fair, a committee comprising Judith Miller, The Earl Howe and Peter Wain (Executive Chairman of the Fair), chose three exhibitors for special praise. The winner of the Best Stand was awarded to WR Harvey & Co (Antiques Ltd), Witney, the winner of Best Showcases was awarded to Jack Shaw & Co, West Yorkshire and the winner in the Picture Category went to Rowles Fine Art, Welshpool.

The 8th National Fine Art & Antiques Fair will take place 12th – 16th January.

Captions for sold pieces:

W.R.Harvey (Antiques) Ltd from Witney were delighted to sell an early 19th century mahogany extending banqueting table, stamped by the makers, 'Whittington, Maker Bristol Patent' that went to a private buyer for a figure in the region of £35,000. The table, when extended, reaches 16ft in length.

Yoxall Antiques from Solihull sold a number of pieces to private buyers including this fine and small Regency mahogany chiffonier for £4,200.

Press Information, Images etc

Duncan Phillips, Press Officer,

Tel:UK (0)1460 432090. 2 Knapp Cottages, Thorncombe, Somerset TA20 4PQ.