

Press Information

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From: Duncan Phillips

duncanphillips@btinternet.com

Tel: (0)1460 432090 / 07980 832639



CLARION ARTS

Dealers Enjoy Most Successful Ever National Fair

The 5th National Fine Art & Antiques Fair

In Association with LAPADA The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers

The Forum, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

16 – 20 January 2008

With sales in every collecting area, from a fine 18th century four-poster bed to an etching by Tracey Emin, the vast majority of the ninety-six antiques dealers exhibiting at The Forum at the NEC, Birmingham, enjoyed the most successful National Fine Art & Antiques Fair since its inception in 2004.

‘The ‘buzz’ has been marvellous throughout,’ said porcelain specialist John Newton from Humberside, who made around forty sales, making this his most successful fair ever at the NEC. Many exhibitors commented that they had not witnessed such a busy fair for years with the attendance showing an increase of more than 12% over the previous year. Many also noted an influx of new collectors, who certainly seemed to boost sales significantly.

The fair is well known for its large range of high quality period furniture, probably the largest at any fair outside London. Many specialist recorded good sales. W.R.Harvey (Antiques) Ltd from Witney were delighted to sell a superb Adam period four-poster bed, circa 1890, to a local collector for £8,500, among other pieces. Holly Johnson, from Cheshire, sold a number of items including a magnificent pair of carved mahogany cabinets attributed to Collins & Lock, circa 1880, for £15,000. Local dealer Yoxall Antiques from Solihull enjoyed their most successful fair for several years, selling a fine Regency rosewood Davenport, a set of chairs, a fine early cabinet, which went to the trade, and other pieces. Walter Moores & Son from Market Harborough were very pleased with sales of mahogany furniture, including a set of chairs, cupboards and occasional pieces, so too Beechridge Antiques from Poole, who sold a set of twelve Georgian dining chairs among other items.

Country furniture also found keen buyers: Mark Seabrook Antiques from Cambridgeshire sold several pieces including a fine period dresser; Tim Wharton from Hertfordshire sold a number of items including a very rare early cricket table and an early large cupboard; and Mike Melody from Cheshire who sold two dresser bases and other pieces.

Many more furniture dealers recorded good sales, including Vaughan Antiques from Peterborough, Sue Killinger from Great Missenden, S. & S. Timms from Bedfordshire, Dome Antiques from London and Wakelin & Linfield, who sold an impressive leather sofa.

Clocks also sold well: F J & R D Story Long Case Clocks from Rotherham made a number of sales including a Georgian longcase clock by Thomas Johnson of London, 7ft 8ins tall, for £15,000.

Fine art is traditionally a strong area at the National Fair and once again sales were very good. Among those most delighted with sales were Callaghan Fine Paintings from Shrewsbury, Rowles Fine Art from Welshpool (who sold a fine oil painting by Sir Kyffin Williams), Broadway dealers Haynes Fine Art, Trinity House and John Noott Galleries; Books Illustrated from Salisbury, who sold a large watercolour by Louis Wain for around £11,000 and a contemporary sculpture for around £12,000; newcomers The Rae-Smith Gallery from London, Ashleigh House from Cambridgeshire; Baron Fine Art from Chester, The Hunt Gallery from Kent, Kenulf Fine Art from Stow-on-the-Wold, Rob Whittle Fine Art from Birmingham, Mere Antiques from Topsham, Neville Contemporary Art from Hampshire, Ryland Fine Art from Yorkshire (making 17 sales) and Paul Mayhew Fine Art from London.

Returning print specialist Black Ink from Stow-on-the-Wold sold a number of works including an etching by Tracey Emin, depicting Kate Moss – perhaps the most controversial exhibit at the fair – for a figure around £2,000.

Ceramics specialists enjoyed strong sales. The aforementioned John Newton, specialising in mainly Continental pieces; newcomer Catherine Hunt from Cheltenham, specialising in Blue and White, who described the fair as ‘absolutely wonderful’; Mark and Sandra Diamond from London; Brian Watson, the glass specialist from Norwich; Roger de Ville, the early pottery specialist from Staffordshire; Tony Horsley from Brighton, and David and Sally March from Bristol, specialising in early English porcelain.

In other areas, miniature portrait specialists Judy and Brian Harden from the Cotswolds and Cynthia Walmsley both enjoyed good business, bronze sculpture specialists Hickmet Fine Art from London and Hazlehurst Antiques from Kent were very pleased; jewellery specialists were generally delighted with so much post-Christmas business, notably Trivette from Hampshire and Wimpole Antiques from London, who have been exhibiting at a January antiques fair at the NEC since 1991 and found this event one of the most memorable for sales.

Silver is generally in strong demand at many fairs and the National featured fourteen specialists, several making their debut, notably B. Silverman and Tobes Ltd from London and Ray Heath of Steele & Heath from Staffordshire. Commenting at the close Ray Heath said:

'This is a wonderful fair with very good quality visitors. Business has been excellent and I am delighted.'

Best Stand Award

A committee comprising The Earl Howe, Chairman of LAPADA; Mr Peter Wain, Chair of the Vetting Committee, and Ms Louise Ford, from Antiques Magazine, awarded the Best Stand Award to Stablegate Antiques from Kent, the well known furniture specialists.

The next National Fine Art & Antiques Fair will take place from 14th – 18th January 2009.

Images available:

A superb Adam period four-poster bed, circa 1890, sold for £8,500 by W.R. Harvey (Antiques) Ltd, Witney.

One of a pair of magnificent carved mahogany cabinets attributed to Collins & Lock, circa 1880, sold for £15,000 (the pair) by Holly Johnson Antiques from Cheshire.

A fine Regency rosewood Davenport sold for £3,950 by Yoxall Antiques from Birmingham.

Further press information from:

Tiffany Pritchard, Fair Director Tel: 0121 767 2454.

Duncan Phillips, Press Officer Tel: 01460 432090.