

The 
INTERNATIONAL
FINE ART AND
ANTIQUÉ DEALERS
SHOW™

New York, October 17-23, 2008

By Maureen Footer

Offered by the world's most prestigious dealers in art and antiques, such a concentration of quality under one roof makes this show a rarity in itself. The International Show serves up a unique cocktail of cosmopolitan panache with new and old world dynamics.



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ONLOCATION

| *at International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show*

by Maureen Footer

Editor's note: Maureen Footer is a spirited and imaginative writer who volunteered to write about the International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show.

The glamorous **INTERNATIONAL FINE ART *and* ANTIQUE DEALERS SHOW**

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~ A High Flight to High Quality ~

Anna and Brian Haughton's flagship fair, the International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show, celebrates its 20th anniversary during its run October 17th - 23rd, 2008, at the Park Avenue Armory. The fair brings together many of the world's leading art and antique dealers the Armory's 67th Street and Park Avenue location in New York's Upper East Side. On Thursday, October 16th, the Society of Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center will hold its 20th Annual Preview Party for The International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show. Immediately following the Preview Party, the Associates committee of the Society is hosting an exclusive post-show dinner sponsored by *1stdibs*.



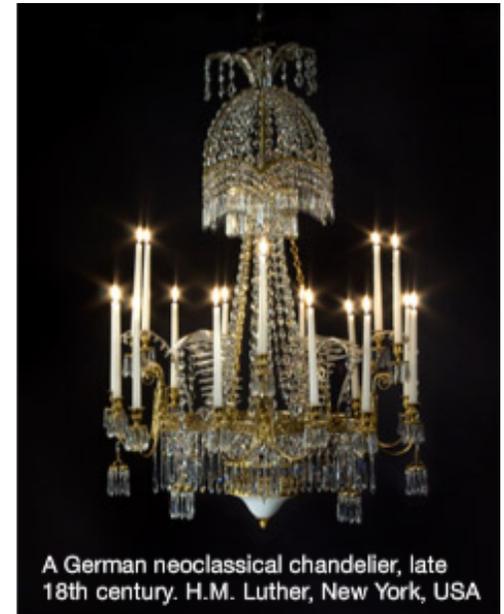
Pair of gilt wood chairs by Jules Leleu.
France, c. 1922. Maison Gerard, New York



Diamonds are a girl's best friends lantern by Matali Crasset for Meta. Mallett Company, New York, USA

AT A TIME WHEN FINANCIAL investments can lose 20-40% of their value overnight, investors turn to gold, silver, platinum, and other tangible goods that glitter. For some, these beckoning objects include art, *objets de vertu*, and fine antiques. In the current climate of volatility and uncertainty, what a pleasure it is for those with worried minds and stressed assets to head to the International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show. Exquisitely, it provides, in a most timely fashion, the perfect palliative for the beleaguered soul: glamour, aesthetic relief and – as the first fair in the United States to introduce vetting – museum quality alternative investments.

Being treated like a VIP by being granted exclusive preview access to this year's exhibit, it is a rare pleasure to walk among the sumptuous aisles of the International Show. On opening night, one is sure to see the couture dresses, the jewelry, the flowers from London, and the offerings from the preeminent antiquarians and art dealers that promise to dazzle the eye. Most significantly, even the exhibiting dealers find the show particularly heady. A beautiful antiquarian relates that the International Show creates such anticipation among the dealers that Chinese painting specialist Robert Ellsworth – a legendary man described as living on bourbon, cigarettes and hope – would pour Champagne for fellow dealers on opening night in his Fifth Avenue apartment.



A German neoclassical chandelier, late 18th century. H.M. Luther, New York, USA



Pair of benches. North Italy, c. 1800. Walnut. Antoine Cheneviere Fine Arts, London, UK

THE EXTRAORDINARY AND THE RARE

A thrilling sight is one's first glimpse into the Park Avenue Armory with its extraordinary display of exceptional quality works ranging from rare pieces of furniture, *objets*, drawings, paintings, sculpture, carpets, tapestries, firearms, jewelry, books, ceramics, and Asian antiquities. Offered by the world's most selective dealers in art and antiques, such a concentration of quality under one roof makes the show a rarity in itself. While the spring fair at Maastricht offers unparalleled Dutch blossoms and Old Master's paintings, and the Paris Biennale exhibits fine French furniture in the Grand Palais pleasure dome, the International Show serves up a unique cocktail of cosmopolitan panache and New World dynamics.



George II carved giltwood chairs by Matthias Locke, c 1775. Apter-Fredericks Ltd, London, UK

RIGHT: Tiffany Studios dragonfly lamp, c. 1910. Lillian Nassau LLC, New York, USA



BELOW: One of a pair of George III giltwood 'picturesque' candelabra, c. 1755. Kentshire Galleries, New York, USA



THE CHIC MIX

While the offerings need no enhancement or introduction, the dealers' displays are artfully designed with dramatic lighting, floral arrangements, boiserie and upholstered walls, and parquet floors. Apter-Fredericks of London shows an extraordinary pair of gilded Matthias Locke chairs that are so graceful and divine that I could place them in any of my projects. At Kentshire, a giltwood palm tree torchere that makes my heart skip a beat. H.M. Luther, purveyor of classical chic, exhibits chandeliers that sparkle like stars.

IN A WORLD OF CONSTANT MOTION, I am drawn to the calm symmetry of pairs of anything, a soothing element in any room. A must see is a fabulous pair of Regency sideboards with high-style specimen marble tops and mirrors (again at Apter-Fredericks), then a spirited pair of Tang period horses with their elegant, muscled forelegs raised is presented by the Chinese Porcelain Company, then Ronald Phillip's extravagant pair of Georgian gilt wood side tables that are as wonderful as his fabled mirrors.

Foster-Gwin from San Francisco has brought a rare Italian Renaissance walnut table, so visually powerful with its strong octagonal shape, glowing patina and pure lines, that it could serve in the most minimal or opulent setting with equal aplomb. The Chinese Porcelain Company, renowned for Chinese and French objects, has added modern French furniture from Garouste and Bonetti as well as the ever-appropriate furniture of Maison Jansen. The revered English dealer, Mallett, brings to its outstanding 18th century offerings: the collector-quality modern Meta designs.



Pair painted prancing horses. Tang Dynasty (618-906). The Chinese Porcelain Company, New York, USA

For visual beguilement, newcomer, Mary Helen McCoy from Charleston, submits an important German rococo bureau with Venetian marquetry of exotic materials including horn, ivory, ebony, and pewter. Her elegant and



FICTION NO. 120, Pan Ying. Ink on paper, 2002. The Chinese Porcelain Company, New York, USA



Untitled Painting by John Grillo (American b.1917), 1956. Foster-Gwin, Inc., San Francisco, USA

pure-lined game table signed by Beneman, provisioner of furniture to Marie-Antoinette after the political demise of the extravagant Riesener — would be the piece *de resistance* in any room, whether classic or experimental.

To satisfy the taste for the far-flung and exotic, I could easily imagine placing the precious Cartier version of a Chinese jade snuff bottle from Hancocks on a side table. For something more ancient, Foster-Gwin's elegant Hellenic head of a youth or Blitz of Amsterdam's 7th B.C. Chinese bronze buffalo figure, bring the average age of objects in a room to a distinguished number and honor civilizations past.

WHILE sisal and Tibetan rugs have proved themselves as invariably useful, when I want a more layered effect in a room, I troll the market for antique rugs. Fred Moheban Gallery answers this need beautifully with a collection of antique Asian and European rugs, including a glorious Spanish Cuenca carpet, simultaneously so strong and sublime in its Iberian cultural references that it would be equally appropriate in a loft, a glass house, a converted barn, or an elegant living room, as well as a *parador*.

Among drawings, the Bonnards and Vuillards found at Jill Newhouse invite the eye to linger in their intimate worlds. Beautiful paintings do not suffer at this show either and the contemporary works feel particularly compelling. From spare and evocative modern Chinese brush paintings, modern Japanese works in oil, to California abstract expressionist John Grillo, I want to hang them all over the sumptuous Louis XV commode by Mondonfound at McCoy's stand, to create that perfect tension of contrast.



George III mahogany bureau bookcase of superb colour and proportion, c. 1765. Mallett Inc, New York, USA



George III bracket clock, c. 1800. Hyde Park Antiques, New York, USA

FLIGHT TO QUALITY

While Warren Buffett bypasses distressed assets to purchase a stake in a blue-chip investment bank, the antique and art market follows a parallel course. Speculative and whimsical purchases give way to informed collecting of best quality pieces of extraordinary provenance, rarity, unique materials, exceptional design,

and quality. This is in evidence in the markets: over the past 18 months, furniture auctions have produced very strong results at the top end of the market. A celebrated dealer of Chinese antiquities in New York made its most expensive sale in September, 2008.



Spanish Cuenca Rug, Spain, 1st quarter of 20th century. Fred Moheban Gallery, New York, USA

WHILE FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS themselves are vulnerable, antiques and art at the top-end of the market provide both tangible pleasure and historically, long-term appreciation. Needless to say, this is a smart to start acquiring really fine pieces, for the market has cooled. Harry Apter of Apter-Fredericks expressed this in Churchillian terms, saying that in these times we have the opportunity to show our true character and tendencies, stand brave, and seek the best quality in the market. At the International Fine Art and Antique Show we have the perfect launch pad to acquire the finest quality from the best dealers offering the extraordinary.



Sapphire and diamond brooch in the form of a heart intertwined with mistletoe. By Fabergé, St. Petersburg, c. 1900. A La Vieille Russie, New York, USA

18th century English white painted bookcase with organically inspired carvings, c. 1760. Price: \$750,000. Kentshire, New York, USA



THE ART AND ANTIQUE DEALERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

The professional association, AADLA, is the oldest antique and arts organization in America, dating from 1926. Its primary mission is to promote understanding among themselves and with the public of all aspects of the fine and decorative arts. Its first president was the great Charles Duveen. The league sets and enforces among its members rigorous standards of quality and ethics to give complete assurance to the buyer. Its members are among the most august of American dealers and are represented at the International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show by A La Vieille Russie, Foster-Gwin, Hyde Park Antiques, Kentshire, H.M. Luther, and Mary Helen McCoy. For those not able to attend the International Show, there is a bright spot: effective this November, AADLA members will begin being represented on *1stdibs.com*.



MAUREEN FOOTER is a New York City interior designer whose projects take her up and down the eastern sea board and throughout Europe. Ms. Footer has a passion for the decorative arts, especially in 18th century antiques. She is an avid traveler and spans the world for her design inspirations.



EXHIBITING DEALERS:

A LA VIEILLE RUSSIE, INC., NEW YORK, USA

AGNEW'S, LONDON, UK

ANTOINE CHENEVIÈRE FINE ARTS, LONDON, UK

APTER-FREDERICKS LTD, LONDON, UK

AXEL VERVOORDT, WIJNEGEM, GRAVENWEZEL, BELGIUM

BERNARD GOLDBERG FINE ARTS, LLC, NEW YORK, USA

BERNARD J. SHAPERO RARE BOOKS, LONDON, UK

BLITZ CHINESE CERAMICS & WORKS OF ART, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

BRAME & LORENCEAU, PARIS, FRANCE

BRIAN HAUGHTON GALLERY, LONDON, UK

BROWSE & DARBY, LONDON, UK

CHARLES EDE LTD, LONDON, UK

COVE LANDING, NEW YORK, USA

DAVID & CONSTANCE YATES, NEW YORK, USA

DOUGLAS DAWSON GALLERY, CHICAGO, USA

DR JOERN GUENTHER – ANTIQUARIAT, HAMBURG, GERMANY

E. & R. CYZER, LONDON, UK

FIRESTONE AND PARSON, INC., BOSTON, MA, USA

FOSTER-GWIN, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, USA

FRANK PARTRIDGE, LONDON, UK

FRED MOHEBAN GALLERY, NEW YORK, USA

GALERIE BOULAKIA, PARIS, FRANCE

GANDER & WHITE SHIPPING LTD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON, UK / LONG ISLAND CITY, NY, USA

GOEDHUIS CONTEMPORARY, NEW YORK, USA

HANCOCKS, LONDON, UK

HARRIS LINDSAY, LONDON, UK

H. BLAIRMAN & SONS LTD, LONDON, UK

HIRSCHL & ADLER GALLERIES, NEW YORK, USA

HYDE PARK ANTIQUES, LTD, NEW YORK, USA

HYLAND GRANBY ANTIQUES, HYANNIS PORT, MA, USA



H.M. LUTHER, NEW YORK, USA

JAMES ROBINSON, INC., NEW YORK, USA

JEFFREY B. HENKEL – THURSTON NICHOLS PENNINGTON, NJ, USA

J.H. BOURDON-SMITH LTD, LONDON, UK

JILL NEWHOUSE, NEW YORK, USA

KENTSHIRE, NEW YORK, USA

KOOPMAN RARE ART, LONDON, UK

LILLIAN NASSAU LLC, NEW YORK, USA

MACCONNAL-MASON GALLERY, LONDON, UK

MAISON GERARD LTD, NEW YORK, USA

MALLET INC, NEW YORK, USA

MARTIN DU LOUVRE, PARIS, FRANCE

MAROUN H. SALLOUM, PARIS, FRANCE

MARY HELEN MCCOY FINE ANTIQUES, CHARLESTON, SC, USA

OTTO NAUMANN, LTD, NEW YORK, USA

P. & D. COLNAGHI & CO. LTD, LONDON, UK

PELHAM, PARIS, FRANCE / LONDON, UK

PETER FINER, LONDON, UK

PHOENIX ANCIENT ART, NEW YORK, USA / GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

POTTERTON BOOKS, SESSAY, UK

RALPH M. CHAIT GALLERIES, INC., NEW YORK, USA

RAFFETY & WALWYN LTD, LONDON, UK

RICHARD GREEN, LONDON, UK

RONALD PHILLIPS LTD, LONDON, UK

SAMPSON & HORNE, LONDON, UK

SIMON CAPSTICK-DALE FINE ART, NEW YORK, USA

S.J. SHRUBSOLE, NEW YORK, USA

SOMLO ANTIQUES, LONDON, UK

TAMBARAN GALLERY, NEW YORK, USA

THE CHINESE PORCELAIN COMPANY, NEW YORK, USA

WARTSKI, LONDON, UK

W.M. BRADY & CO., NEW YORK, USA