

# The Telegraph

By Colin Gleadell

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## New art fair is ‘post-Covid fight back for London’

The cancellation last month of two grand London art and antiques fairs, Masterpiece London and Art & Antiques Olympia, due to be staged at the height of the summer season, came as a shock to the art trade who blamed onerous post-Brexit red tape for the lack of foreign exhibitors applying to take stands. But already, the higher-profile event, Masterpiece, staged in a period-looking structure in the grounds of Christopher Wren’s Chelsea Royal Hospital, has found a replacement.

Two of the original founders of Masterpiece (antiques dealer Thomas Woodham-Smith and owner of fair builder Stabilo International Harry van der Hoorn), along with most of the international art and antiques trade, believe that Masterpiece had become such an important event in the calendar that it should not sink without trace. Woodham-Smith confirms that they have secured Chelsea Royal Hospital at the same time of year (June 22-26). Another Masterpiece veteran, furniture dealer Simon Phillips, says that many of his trade colleagues are eager to take part in a multi-disciplinary event for the best in fine art, furniture, design from all ages, sculpture, clocks, jewellery and antiquities.

To those who portray the cancellations of Masterpiece and Olympia as indicative of a general malaise in the British art and antiques market, Woodham-Smith replies: “The new fair, entitled The London Summer Art Fair, is a post-Brexit, post-Covid fight back for London.”