

Treasure House Fair exhibitors bring wow factor to interior designer's installation with array of loaned art and antiques

by Laura Chesters

Art and antiques dealers from *Treasure House Fair* are part of the latest *WOW!house* installation which opened last week.

The annual showhome project in London's Design Centre at Chelsea Harbour, west London, comprises a 6458 sq ft (600 sq m) exhibition across 22 rooms and outdoor spaces, created by more than 20 interior designers. It is open until July 3.

In its fourth year, this summer the display features a room designed by interior decorator, Daniel Slowik. He has worked with 10 exhibitors from *Treasure House Fair* who loaned the art and objects to create the room.

The installation billed as a

Images by James McDonald, courtesy of DCC



'Room for a Collector' takes inspiration from the 19th century collector Sir Richard Wallace whose collection (now the Wallace Collection) "resonates with the eclectic tastes of modern collectors".

The galleries represented are Ronald Phillips, Philip Mould & Company, Butchoff Antiques, Thomas Coulborn &

Sons, Michael Goedhuis, Piano Nobile, Bowman Sculpture, Howard Walwyn, Fileman Antiques and Christopher Kingzett.

A vignette of the *WOW!house* installation, called *Treasure House Fair Morning Room* by Daniel Slowik will be recreated at *Treasure House Fair* (which runs from June 26-July 1 at



Left: decorator Daniel Slowik's (also pictured) 'Room for a Collector' at *WOW!house*.

Wallace. This room is for him and everyone who has discovered that great enrichment to life which is the appreciation of beautiful things."

Thomas Woodham-Smith, co-founder and director of *Treasure House Fair*, added: "We are very exciting to participate in *WOW!House* this year. It is a great opportunity for us to showcase what an encyclopaedic fair like *Treasure House* is all about.

"Daniel is a master at marrying the latest contemporary art and design with ancient and historical pieces."

➔ treasurehousefair.com

➔ dcc.co.uk/wowhouse

Royal Chelsea Hospital).

Slowik said: "In thinking about the sort of person who would inhabit this room, the idea of a collector emerged, the sort who engaged with the history and provenance of each object.

"Very quickly I came to know the presiding spirit of this room as someone like Richard

Dealer makes another US museum sale

Sutton Coldfield dealer Thomas Coulborn & Sons has sold another artwork to a US museum following a major art fair.

Earlier this year the dealership announced it had sold an engraved glass picture to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (ATG No 2694) and now it has confirmed the sale of a mosaic panel to The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The panel had an asking price of £95,000 at *Treasure House Fair* in 2024.

Following negotiations, the dealer was able to complete the sale of the 18th century panel to The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). It will go on display at Rienzi, MFAH's house museum for European decorative arts.

The micromosaic panel depicts a Bacchante bordered by a collection

of butterflies in medallions. It is attributed to Roman artists Andrea Volpini (c.1756-1812) and Giacomo Raffaelli (1753-1836).

Jonathan Coulborn believes it was made c.1780-90 when the "adoption of secular and profane subjects proliferated in the Vatican Mosaic Workshop in order to appeal to a larger and more international clientele".

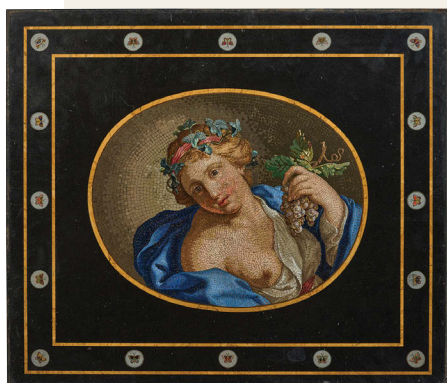
It is understood that the decision to move to more secular works was made as the mosaic work for the Vatican Basilica neared completion. In 1793 the creation of small mosaics was given official status in the Vatican.

This initiative marked a turning point in the production of the workshop which could diversify from the traditional and exclusive processing of larger mosaics.

While the great demand for mosaic souvenirs within the Roman art market was linked to the phenomenon of the Grand Tour, it was also decisive for the survival of the Vatican manufacture.

Thomas Coulborn & Sons will return to *Treasure House Fair* this summer on June 26-July 1 (also see story above).

Left: an 18th century micromosaic purchased by The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston from Thomas Coulborn & Sons.



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