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koopman rare art



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US museums spend big at Maastricht

Dealers buoyed by early sales

US museums were back buying at **TEFAF Maastricht** this year, with a flurry of sales taking place in the opening hours of the 37th staging of the international event.

With 270 dealers from 22 countries, offering 7000 years' worth of art and artefacts, many exhibitors welcomed the appearance of major institutions ready to buy on the first day of the fair.

Stuart Lochhead Sculpture made two significant sales to US museums on opening day including a lifetime cast of Giambologna's bronze *Striding Mars* with an asking price of \$4m.

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Right: a lifetime cast of *Striding Mars* c.1580 by Florentine sculptor Giambologna sold at TEFAF with an asking price of **\$4m** by Stuart Lochhead Sculpture.



Treasure House expands to 70

The Treasure House Fair is getting a boost in size this summer as exhibitor numbers and square meterage both increase.

Running from June 26-July 2 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London, the fair is set to host 70 exhibitors, around 30% more than last year.

Newcomers are to include several well-known names such as Philip Mould, Willow Gallery, Maison d'art of Monaco and SJ Shrubsole of New York.

Last year's inaugural edition hosted around 55 exhibitors. Many return this year: Richard Green, Sydney L Moss, Osborne Samuel and the Parisian gallery Univers du Bronze. According to the fair, 90% of those who stood at the first staging are set to return.

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Watches

The appeal of watches that keep time with military precision

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Dealers' Diary: The historic alongside the contemporary at *London Original Print Fair* – page 30-31

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My concern is that this practice is widespread and as far as I know unchallenged

the Design & Artists Copyright Society (DACS) on a project called Bronzchain which aimed to integrate hallmarking and blockchain registration for bronze artworks. The project was launched in 2018 but has since stalled although Blik remains keen to resuscitate the scheme but this time without the burdensome blockchain element.

A spokesperson for DACS said: “Regrettably, the anticipated level of engagement from foundries was not achieved with the Bronzchain project. The amalgamated hallmarking and blockchain registration process may have deterred foundries from participating, which is of course pivotal for the project to attain recognition as an industry standard for authenticating bronze artworks.

“DACS would not assess the suitability of cold-cast bronze. However, it is important to recognise that if the market is misled by it and the public thinks that this is in fact real bronze when it is not, then this should be addressed from a consumer protection point of view as well as protecting foundries and artists working in bronze.

“We are currently in conversations with artist Maurice Blik to see if we can find a simplified system for hallmarking without the blockchain registration.”

Russell said that, while she always signs and adds edition numbers to her work, an additional bronze hallmark “would certainly help”.

“While we’d love to see it; it may be more complex than it first appears,” she added.

“There are more bronze sculpture alloys than you’d expect, foundries often don’t receive alloy certificates, and I wonder if suppliers cast their own ingots or whether they actually import cast ingots from abroad.

“Implementation aside, it sounds like something we will see talked about more as bronze prices continue to rise.”



The Royal Hospital Chelsea, venue for The Treasure House Fair.

Credit: Royal Hospital Chelsea

Numbers rise for second Treasure House

Continued from front page

The event’s marquee will measure nearly 3000 square meters, around 30% up on last year’s. A full exhibitor list is to follow in the coming weeks.

The change is in line with plans on the part of co-founders and directors Harry Van der Hoorn and Thomas Woodham-Smith to make the fair larger but keep numbers manageable.

Woodham-Smith said: “It was extremely encouraging to witness the enthusiasm and passion with which the debut fair was embraced by the trade, collectors and visitors alike.”

The pair launched the event in a

matter of months last year after the London summer flagship fair *Masterpiece* (which they had also helped launch more than a decade earlier) was called off suddenly in January.

This year the dates are a week later, and it aligns with the other major London summer art event, *London Art Week* (June 28-July 5).

A third event, *The Eye of the Collector Fair*, recently announced a change in time and venue and now takes place at the nearby Garrison Chapel at the Chelsea Barracks from June 26-29, aligning with *Treasure House*.

Frances Allitt

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