

Summer of art & Antiques 2025



Fairs, exhibitions, auctions Where to go and what to buy

House calls

The third edition of *Treasure House Fair* carries on the long tradition of summer events in London, as *Stewart Cumiskey* reports – with a selection of highlights to savour

Treasure House Fair returns to the expansive Royal Hospital Chelsea for a summer festival of art, antiquity, culture and luxe retail.

Taking place for the third time overall, from June 26 until July 1 one of London's youngest art fairs will bring together 70 internationally renowned exhibitors in the fields of fine art, furniture, jewellery, watches, design and classic cars.

This year's edition features artworks by art history big-hitters (such as Picasso, Rodin, Degas, Hepworth, Soutine, Chagall) as well as natural wonders and curiosities.

Harry Van der Hoorn, co-founder of the fair and owner of the stand building company Stabilo, says: "We are proud to carry the baton of our forebears and be part of the long tradition of summer fairs in London. With over a third of international exhibitors and a quarter of newcomers, this third edition corroborates the importance of London for the global trade and the strength of its local market."

The fair will welcome the return of some of the world's leading antique dealers, such as Ronald Phillips, Richard Green, Osborne Samuel, Wartski, Adrian Sassoon, Butchoff Antiques, MacConnal-Mason, Godson & Coles, Koopman Rare Art, Frank Partridge, SJ Phillips, Adrian Alan and Frank Partridge.

They will be joined by internationally renowned galleries, including three New York institutions: the antique jeweller À La Vieille Russie, silver specialists SJ Shrubsole and the leading authority in antique porcelain Michele Beiny. Interior and furniture designer Rose Uniacke will also be showcasing her most recent antique and vintage finds.

Among the European galleries participating for the first time are Grob Gallery, the Geneva gallery specialising in 20th-century photography, the Dutch gallery Douwes, one of the world's oldest family art dealerships, and a leading expert in original lifetime prints by Rembrandt; Florian Kolhammer, the Viennese dealer specialising in the Jugendstil, Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods, and Albricht, the Amsterdam gallery focusing on early 20th-century painting, including the work of Kees van Dongen.

Reflecting the eclecticism of today's collectors

and the populist curiosity of the public, *Treasure House* is also showing a childhood drawing by King Charles III, one of the last surviving Union flags from the Battle of Trafalgar, a recently rediscovered surrealist landscape by Cedric Morris, the oldest longcase clock in the world (The Norfolk Fromanteel, c.1660) and an early depiction of a cricket match.

Alongside the exhibitors' presentations, a series of talks are programmed and also included is an exhibition on the Bugatti family, curated by Edward Horswell. *The Brilliant Bugattis* will be the first exhibition on the family in the UK since the show at the Royal College of Art, London, in 1979.

Also featured will be a lively Sculpture Walk with the theme 'Disrupt – Connect' curated by sculpture expert Flo Horswell and Dr Melissa L Gustin, curator of British art at National Museums Liverpool. The walk, set both inside the fair and in the gardens of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, will take visitors around 30 objects spanning 300 years.

Festival feel

Thomas Woodham-Smith, director and co-founder of *Treasure House*, says: "We like to think of ourselves as a festival rather than an art fair. People come to enjoy the art, meet up and spend time at the restaurant and the bar. It is altogether a social, sybaritic and scholarly experience

Right: Ernest Shepard (1879-1976), *Wind in the Willows*, *Toad escapes from Prison*, 1931, pencil and watercolour. Offered for **£68,000** by **Christopher Kingzett**.



Left: the Admiral Byng Joseph Knibb longcase clock, c.1672. From the John C Taylor Collection. This walnut veneered longcase was one of the earliest surviving clocks made by Joseph Knibb in London after taking over his cousin Samuel Knibb's workshop, following Samuel's death. His was probably one of the last cases of the plague, still clinging on via the fleas on the city's rats, even after the Great Fire of 1666. This clock is offered for **£180,000** by **Tobias Birch**.

which in just two years, has become integral to the London summer social season. A bit like Prince Albert's 1851 *Great Exhibition* and the 1951 *Festival of Britain*, the fair is a celebration of the greatest art and craftsmanship gathered from all four corners of the world."

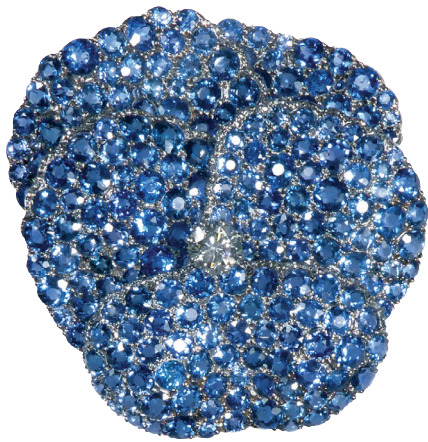
Down to earth

Among items that are bound to be crowd pleasers will be the Aguas Zarcas meteorite, shown by ArtAncient.

On April 23, 2019, at 9.07pm in the central Costa Rican town of Aguas Zarcas, a giant fireball was captured on CCTV, dashboard cameras and mobile phones.

The meteorite shower that ensued is arguably the most scientifically important in recorded history. It included the 'la Esmeralda' Aguas Zarcas CM2 chondrite meteorite which crashed through the kennel of a German Shepherd dog called Roky, barely missing him. A seven-inch hole marks where the meteorite punctured the roof. The meteorite and the doghouse will both be on display at *Treasure House*. Roky the dog is unlikely to be putting in an appearance, however.

"If I had to start a new museum collection for meteorites ... I would choose Aguas Zarcas," says Philipp Heck, curator for meteoritics, Chicago's Field Museum. ■



Above: in 1895, Dr George Frederick Kunz, the leading American gemmologist of the time, was so impressed by the quality and colour of sapphires recently found in Montana, he pronounced them “the finest precious gemstones ever found in the United States”.

In 1899, the British jewellers Johnson, Walker and Tolhurst purchased the New Mine Sapphire Syndicate for \$100,000 (worthy approximately \$3.1m today) and shipped some 16 million carats of stones to London until it ceased operations in 1929. This Montana sapphire, diamond and white gold pansy brooch made with stones from ‘the English Mine’, possibly by Johnson Walker and Tolhurst c.1920, is priced at **\$42,000** by New York firm **A La Vieille Russie** which exhibits at *Treasure House* for the second time.



Below: a pair of Regency giltwood and porphyry dolphin tables attributed to Marsh and Tatham. Charles Heathcote Tatham was the most likely designer. Probably acquired by the Duke of Bridgewater in Rome in the 1750s. Each table has a rectangular porphyry top above a frieze carved in relief with egg-and-dart above three scrolled dolphin supports. The simulated porphyry base is carved with ribbon-and-floret borders. The pair is offered for **£650,000** by **Frank Partridge**.



Left: George III silver-gilt commemorative jardiniere. It features the mark of John Parker and Edward Wakelin, London, 1774, marked under base, the liner apparently unmarked, inscribed: *This legacy was left to Assheton Curzon Esq. by his sister-in-law Mary Grosvenor who died Feb 9 1774 which Alas [?] may serve as a token of remembrance of two kind sisters, Mrs. Dorothy Curzon surviving her, only 14 days to lament her loss.*

Shaped oval, on four paw and acanthus feet, the two handles with acanthus joins, the upper body with fluting and acanthus above a row of beading, the lower body applied with two oval plaques, one with two classical figures in a landscape, the other with an inscription, the liner with acanthus handles. The item, 8 x 23 x 11in (21 x 58 x 27 cm), 221 oz 10 dwt (6891 gr), is offered for **£48,000** at **Thomas Coulborn & Sons**.



Left: Japanese silver hawk perched on a black lacquer stand exquisitely worked in gold hiramakie, takamakie and nashiji. The stand is decorated with seamen on boats navigating crashing waves, a maritime motif rendered in traditional Japanese lacquer techniques. The feather work is finely engraved, with eyes and talons in shakudo and gold signed in chiselled characters beneath the tail *Bikai saku* (made by Bikai), Taishō period 1912-26.

There is an historical connection to this piece as the artist identified the hawk named Takachiho by an inscription on the original tomobako wood storage box.

In 1885 during the Sino-Japanese War, the Imperial Navy ship *Takachiho* won the Battle of the Yellow Sea. A hawk reportedly landed on the top of the mast of the ship. Seen as a portent of victory, the bird was later gifted to Emperor Meiji, who named it *Takachiho* and kept it in his Shinjuku Imperial Garden aviary. The work thus carries deep national and symbolic meaning.

The tradition of falconry (takagari) was a favourite past time of the nobility and the Samurai class to show their wealth and status. This hawk is offered for **£37,000** by **Laura Bordignon**.



Left: Louis-Ernest Barrias (French, 1841-1905), *La Nature se dévoilant devant la Science* ('Nature unveiling itself before science'), silver, gilt and patinated bronze, white marble, green marble base with pyrite flecks. The scarab beetle brooch in lapis lazuli. Cast as part of a limited edition by the Susse Frères foundry, Paris, from the model by Louis-Ernest Barrias (French, 1841-1905), conceived in 1893-99, this cast c.1900. Offered for **£170,000** at **Adrian Alan**.

PREVIEW: Treasure House Fair



Above: available from **Thomas Coulborn & Sons**, this 18th-century child's wardrobe in the form of a doll's house – 'Mr Joy's Surprise' – was made in England by Edmund Joy in 1709. This wardrobe measuring 6ft 5in x 4ft 10in x 26in (1.66m x 1.46m x 66cm) was a special and probably very expensive piece of furniture for a lucky child. A similar piece, also made by Edmund Joy and dated 1712, is part of the V&A collection. The façades of both houses bear a considerable resemblance to Kew Palace in west London, a building formerly known as 'The Dutch House'.

Right: shown here is *Three curves with strings* (*Gold Mincarlo*) by Barbara Hepworth (1903-75), 1971, gold and gold strings on wood base, 6in (15cm) high, edition 0 of 12. A rare example of the artist working in gold, this sculpture is solid 18ct gold, with gold 'strings'. This was Hepworth's edition of the work, which she kept until her death. The title references an uninhabited rocky island, part of the Isles of Scilly which she periodically visited from her home in St Ives. This work, like many of Hepworth's late stringed sculptures, invokes a celestial reference to the sun and the moon, a theme which she began exploring in 1966. The work is for sale from **Piano Nobile**.



Left: **Philip Mould & Company** brings this still-life by Virginia Woolf's sister and founding member of the Bloomsbury Group, Vanessa Bell (1879-1961). The *Still Life with Fan*, c.1932, oil on canvas, 2ft 11in x 19in (59.5 x 48.5cm).



Left: this imperial clock by Carl Fabergé was last publicly shown in March 1902 during the exhibition of the Imperial Family's Fabergé collection held in the Von Dervis Mansion on the English Embankment in St Petersburg. Made in St Petersburg, 1896-1902, this elaborately enamelled clock belonged to the Grand Duchess Maria Georgievna, Princess of Greece and Denmark, daughter of King George I of Greece and first cousin of Emperor Nicholas II. It is on offer from **Wartski**.

Right: *Fleur* (1919) is an oil on canvas over board, 3ft 5in x 2ft 4in (1.04m x 71cm) by Maurice Leroy (1885-1973). French Illustrator Leroy is well-known for his illustrations in books, satirical magazines and posters. His colourful modernist paintings pre-dating the roaring Art Deco movement are extremely rare. In the present example, the blooming flowers of spring symbolise the hope and new beginnings that came after the First World War. *Fleur* is available from **Bernard Goldberg Fine Arts** of New York.



Once in the collection of the 'richest man in the history of the world', on offer from **Ronald Phillips**, London, is 'The John Paul Getty console table', English, c.1735, measuring 2ft 10in high x 3ft wide x 22in deep (85 x 91.5 x 56cm). It was formerly in Sutton Place, the 16th-century Surrey residence of John Paul Getty.