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Antiques Trade gazette

The Art Market Weekly

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Churchill the artist

Rising prices at auction and a new exhibition at The Wallace Collection highlight the enduring appeal of works by the wartime leader



Previews of top events

Treasure House Fair,
Classic Art London
and Studiolo

In the galleries

Dealers unveil their
must-see shows

At the museums

Pick of the best
exhibitions

Auction previews

Notable items
coming up for sale

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Welcome to
SUMMER OF ART & ANTIQUES 2026

Life's rich tapestry

The summer season is upon us, and the art market has risen to the occasion. There is plenty to see, plenty to buy and plenty to look forward to.

The line-up of exhibitions, fairs, auctions and dealer shows is as strong as ever – and with so much on offer, the only difficulty will be choosing where to go first.

Classic Art London and the *Treasure House Fair* return to the capital once again, bringing together an outstanding array of selling exhibitions and specialist dealers. Joining them is *Studiolo*, adding further depth to what promises to be a memorable summer for London's art and antiques calendar.

Museums up and down the country are doing what they do best: bringing remarkable things together for us all to enjoy. You can't buy what's on the walls, but the pleasure of standing in front of something extraordinary – and learning what makes it so – is a very fine thing indeed. From Scottish Colourists in Perth, stained glass in Dublin, textiles in Belfast or antiquities in Wales, wherever you are there will be a show for you.

The sheer variety of what awaits over the coming months is hard to overstate. This year we turn a special spotlight on Winston Churchill the artist, a side of the great man that continues to surprise and delight. His paintings take centre stage at The Wallace Collection, while Tate Britain is presenting a major exhibition devoted to Whistler – two shows that alone would make for a fine summer's outing. And once you add in the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum then you really are spoilt for choice.

We have also marked the 50th anniversary of Alfies Antique Market with a conversation with its founder Bennie Gray – an entrepreneur who has shaped the London trade over many decades. Elsewhere, you'll find previews of dealers' summer exhibitions and a selection of highlights from the auction rooms, with something to suit every taste and every budget.

Wherever you decide to go, have a great summer. And book your tickets early!

Matt Ball,
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ART AND ANTIQUES EVENT PREVIEWS **PAGE 18-19 & 22-23**

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The books and works on paper auction house marks a decade of success

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Events big and small to visit



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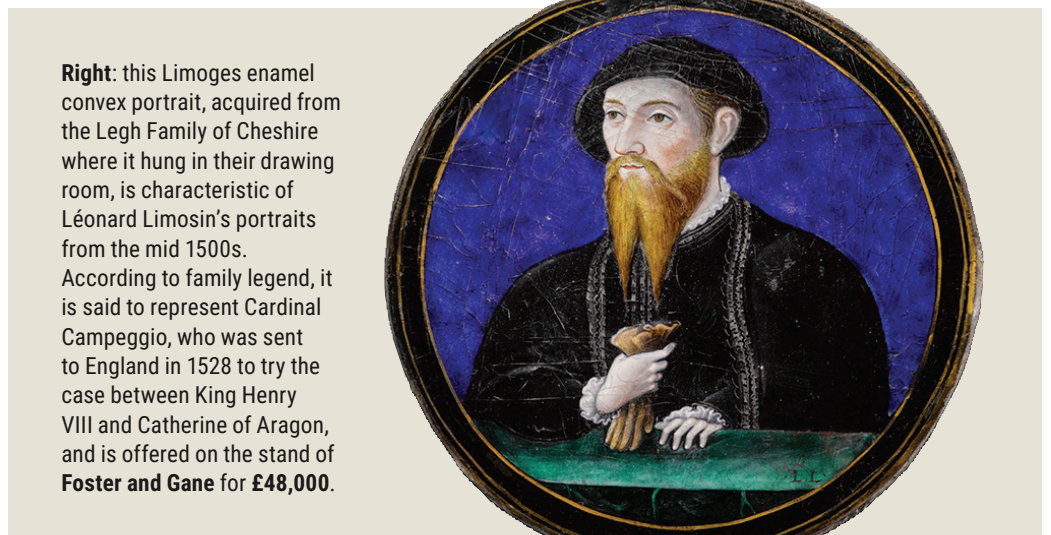
Treasure House Fair offers a roster of top dealers, a major Surrealist loan exhibition and an organiser who believes the fair is ushering in a new generation of trade, as *Frances Allitt* reports



Above: **Laura Bordignon** offers for **£36,000** this Japanese Meiji period bronze koro or incense burner, with four panel scenes of geese and a feudal lord as well as a finial with a crouching young boy restraining a small dog that has caught a bird.



Above: priced at **£250,000** at **Ronald Phillips** is this pair of wall lights once gifted by Queen Anne to the Sultan of Morocco. Made by Philip Arbuthnot c.1705, they are the only known surviving wall lights to feature red verre églomié decoration.



Right: this Limoges enamel convex portrait, acquired from the Legh Family of Cheshire where it hung in their drawing room, is characteristic of Léonard Limosin's portraits from the mid 1500s. According to family legend, it is said to represent Cardinal Campeggio, who was sent to England in 1528 to try the case between King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, and is offered on the stand of **Foster and Gane** for **£48,000**.

Need to know

What

60 dealers under one roof

When

June 24-30

Where

Royal Hospital Chelsea, London

Preview

June 24, 11am-9pm

Website

treasurehousefair.com

The Treasure House Fair returns this month for its fourth edition with an array of top stock from leading dealers and a positive attitude towards a changing market.

Running from June 24-30 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London, the fair hosts around 60 dealers, both British and International.

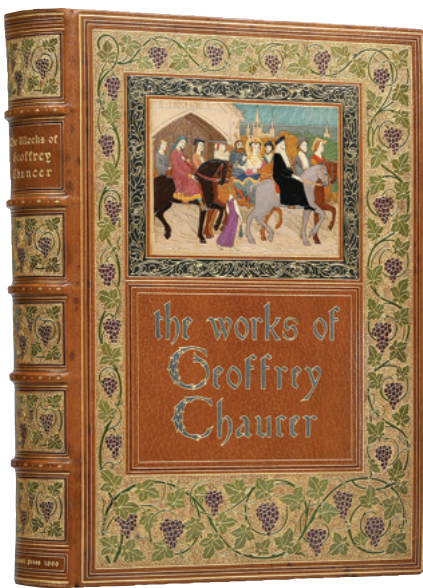
Thomas Woodham-Smith, director and co-founder of the event, is conscious of the place the fair holds in the UK market. It is the latest iteration of a leading London summer fair dating back to *Masterpiece* (2010-22) and the *Grosvenor House Antiques Fair* (1934-2009) before that.



With *Treasure House I* wanted it to be much more trumpeting for London and the international trade, and I wanted it to be more of a cultural event

He and co-founder Harry van der Hoorn were also two of the founders of *Masterpiece*. But, he tells *ATG*, “with *Treasure House* I wanted it to be much more trumpeting for London and the international trade, and I wanted it to be more of a cultural event.”

A particular point of pride for Woodham-Smith is the programming that surrounds the main fair. This year, a major loan exhibition of Surrealist artworks from the Southampton City Art Gallery is on show, bringing together works by Paul Nash, Eileen Agar and Paul Delvaux. It was 18 months in the making. There is also the



This copy of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, Hammersmith, 1896, is the first Kelmscott Press edition, one of 425 copies on paper in an onlaid morocco binding by Birdsall. It was illustrated in pencil by Burne-Jones and completed just before the death of William Morris, who founded the press. Burne-Jones called it “a pocket cathedral, it is so full of design”. It is offered by **Peter Harrington Rare Books** for **£225,000**.



Clare Jameson of **Potterton Books** near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, a specialist in books on fine and decorative arts, design and decoration, is returning to *Treasure House Fair* this summer. Among the many books on offer is *Suggestions pour étoffes et tapis*, a French Art Deco pochoir folio album c.1926 by the French artist Émile-Allain Séguy (pochoir being a stencil-based printmaking technique where pigments are applied by hand). With 20 plates, the book is priced at **£7500**.



Offered by **Robert Young Antiques** for a **five-figure price** is this English primitive dug-out armchair, c.1780, carved from a solid oak tree trunk, 4ft 7in (1.4m) high.

annual Sculpture Walk, featuring monumental artworks.
As for the commercial event, it continues to boast some of the biggest names in the business such as **Richard Green**, **Osborne Samuel**, **Wartski** and **Koopman Rare Art**. This year has seen a bit of turnover in the listed participants, with some major names from last year’s list absent this year – Philip Mould, Carter Marsh, Bowman Sculpture and Piano Nobile among them. But there have been others filling those gaps. **Mayor Gallery** joins for the first time, as does Portuguese firm **Rosoir**. **Martyn Downer** takes a stand of his own for the first time
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this year (after sharing a stand with Greens of Cheltenham), with a death-themed show including a remarkable 17th-century pendant (see *ATG* No 2741).
Woodham-Smith acknowledges the changes to the roster and suggests that they point to bigger shifts in the market. The last few years have been challenging – he mentions “difficulties of money and warfare and Brexit and Covid – you name it”.
The result? “It has brought about a bit of a sea change generationally,” he says. “What I’m observing this year is a shift to new dealers who are looking at design, who are decorating, not just presenting items

on their stand... ones who create a mise-en-scène. It’s very exciting to see that happening, and I’m keen to nurture it in any way I can – they’re buying into something that can be entertainment, not education.”
For many dealers, fairs remain a crucial way to start and develop relationships with clients, beyond those formed online. For many of those standing at *Treasure House*, the summer in London remains a key moment for catching major buyers who come to the city for other pursuits. Those who do attend will find plenty of notable works.
Richard Green brings an assortment of Henry Moore

maquettes, **Long-Sharp** gallery from the US has a special exhibition on British female artists such as Moira Cameron, Julia Ibbini and Yulia Brodskaya, **Grob Gallery** of Geneva focuses on the YBAs and **Messums** uses the fair as a chance to launch its major sculpture exhibition *Totemic*.
Harry van der Hoorn, fellow co-founder and owner of the fair says: “The fair’s outlook remains resolutely international, with 20% of exhibitors travelling from America and Europe. We actively support this global participation by providing assistance with shipping, logistics and import documentation, ensuring a seamless experience for all.” ■