

Five questions with Mehmet Keskiner of Kent Antiques

Mehmet Keskiner is the founder of Kent Antiques specialising in Islamic and Indian works of art as well as 19th century Orientalist paintings. Keskiner runs Kent Antiques from a gallery in Queen's Gate by appointment only with his brother Dr Philip Bora Keskiner and his wife Melis Aran Keskiner.



📷 Islamic and Indian works of art specialist Mehmet Keskiner.



Joan Porter
15 Jan 2024

1 How did you get your start?

I started in 1990 in Istanbul, Turkey, joining my father and mother in the family antiques business. I then moved to London in 1997, named my business Kent Antiques and opened my gallery in South Kensington. My brother and wife joined the business around 10-15 years ago.

2 Why did you decide to have a gallery that is appointment only rather than a shop?

This was always what I wanted as I travel a lot and having this style of gallery enables me to be flexible and more independent. The most enjoyable part of my job is the travelling and the buying: going to auctions, to fairs, meeting new clients and seeing a lot.

3 Which fairs do you plan to show at in 2024?

We have signed up with *TEFAF Maastricht* and also plan to do *Treasure House Fair* in London and *FAB Paris*. I used to do fewer fairs. Over 15 years ago I did the Olympia fair but I then lost interest in fairs for a while. However, as the market changed and narrowed, I thought it would be interesting to return. I started back with the *La Biennale* in Paris and *TEFAF Maastricht* and I have been happy being back at fairs.



📷 A 19th century Swiss enamelled gold snuff box decorated with views of Constantinople. It will be offered at TEFAF Maastricht and published in Kent Antiques' upcoming catalogue with a five-figure asking price.

4 What is one challenge that buyers currently face?

Strict AML (anti-money laundering) regulations. I know the importance of due diligence and I am well aware of our obligations and I follow the AML regulations with great care. But for dealers these regulations can be very difficult particularly at a fair.

It can be frustrating for the new customer being asked lots of questions and so much information is required before even a deal and price can be agreed. There are worries a dealer could lose a deal - and the client - due to all the information required. Many dealers feel the same.

5 Real ale or espresso martini?

Burgundy wine.

kentantiques.com
