

A CURIOUS COLLECTION



THE CAPITAL'S CULTURAL FIXTURE, THE TREASURE HOUSE FAIR, RETURNS TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA. BRINGING TOGETHER SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST ACCLAIMED ART AND ANTIQUE DEALERS, TALLULAH RUSHAYA UNCOVERS WHAT'S ON SHOW THIS YEAR...

PHOTOGRAPHS: CHARLES EMERSON; ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA/DOUGLAS TRY



Now in its fourth edition, the Treasure House Fair continues a distinguished tradition of vetted London summer fairs that dates back to 1934. More than 60 leading galleries will present exceptional works spanning millennia, from a 40,000-year-old woolly rhinoceros leg and Galileo's earliest drawings of the moon to Marie Antoinette's luxurious dog bed, and an array of Renaissance jewels.

This year's fair marks 90 years of British Surrealism, tracing its roots back to June 1936 when London hosted the landmark *International Surrealist Exhibition*. Led by key figures of the movement, such as André Breton and Salvador Dalí, it was a bold, seminal showcase of avant-garde creativity. Concurrently, British antique dealers were preparing the third edition of The Antique Dealers' Fair, widely regarded as the precursor to the Treasure House Fair. "Together, these two events bore witness to the effervescence and creative energy that have always set London's art scene apart," notes Thomas Woodham-Smith, Treasure House Fair's co-founder.

While the fair's major loan exhibition celebrates the dreamlike world of British Surrealism, many exhibitors are bringing works that explore imagination, innovation, and the unexpected in their own distinctive ways. Peter Harrington is offering a selection of British private press and fine bindings that blur the line between literature and visual art. Among them are a Fazakerley binding of *The Book of Gems* with hidden fore-edge painting, the first Kelmscott Press edition of *The Floure and the Leafe* and Sangorski's lavish illuminated manuscript of Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur* on vellum. "These books demonstrate how craftsmanship reflects content, showcasing beautiful examples of fore-edge painting," says Pom Harrington, the owner of Peter Harrington Rare Books (peterharrington.co.uk). Aligning with the Surrealism theme, the gallery is further bringing two rare items linked to the 1936 *International Surrealist Exhibition*: the original catalogue of the show itself, and a lavish first-edition of *Tristan & Iseult* illustrated by Salvador Dalí, complete with an extra suite of signed etchings.

James Hyman Gallery (jameshymangallery.com) is presenting a major rediscovery that bridges art, architecture, and nature. The centrepiece of its

OBJET DISPLAY
Opening page: *Blood, sweat and tears with a twist of lemon* by artist Alex Chinneck will be presented by Robert Young Antiques
Top left clockwise: MacConnal-Mason Gallery will showcase *Piccadilly - Drawing Room Day* by E. J. Gregory; Ronald Phillips will share this 1699 table from Queen Mary II's Kensington Palace bedchamber; Royal Hospital Chelsea is the Treasure House Fair's venue; Henry Moore's *Small Maquette No.2 for Reclining Figure* will make an appearance there, courtesy of Richard Green





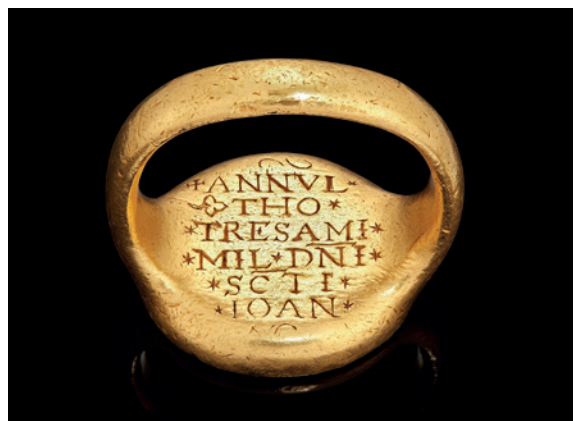
display is Edwin Maxwell Fry's monumental architectural frieze *Forest with a Herd of Deer*, a set of four panels by one of Britain's most important modernist architects. "I find it incredibly exciting that a major unknown work like Edwin Maxwell Fry's enormous architectural frieze, *Forest with a Herd of Deer*, can still appear," says James Hyman. "What makes it so remarkable is that it demonstrates Fry thinking as both architect and painter, bringing art, nature and architecture together with real conviction. We're excited to show it at Treasure House for the first time as the centrepiece of our display." Knightsbridge-based Frank Partridge (frankpartridge.co.uk), meanwhile, is bringing a pair of Louis XV lacquer commodes owned by Madame de Pompadour.



SO MUCH TO SEE
Clockwise from top left: Fittingly, Southampton City Art Gallery will share *Good Shooting* by Roland Penrose, one of the organisers of the 1936 International Surrealism Exhibition; Martyn Downer will showcase long-lost memento mori, Aston Hall Death's Head Jewel (1635); Madame de Pompadour's 18th century commodes will be presented by Frank Partridge; Greens of Cheltenham will exhibit Sir Thomas Tresham's signet ring, (c.1557); a rare 16th century enamel Léonard Limosin portrait of a bearded man will be shared by Foster & Gane

Adding some horological glamour is Burlington Arcade-based Somlo London (somlo.com) with a vintage Cartier London Tank Normale, formerly owned by actor Stewart Granger. "Granger is often credited as one of the figures who encouraged Cartier London to pursue something more unconventional, a creative shift that would ultimately lead to the now-iconic Crash piece," explains director Daniel Somlo. The famously asymmetrical Crash model, signalled a time where Cartier London was "at its most characterful", with highly limited designs and diverging subtly from its Paris counterparts.

A meeting point of history and imagination, Treasure House Fair carries forward the bizarre, dreamlike spirit of Surrealism, exploring realms of boundless possibility. Visitors can expect moments of discovery that bring the exhibition vividly to life. **■**
 Visit the Treasure House Fair from 24-30 June. For more information and to buy tickets, visit treasurehousefair.com



PHOTOGRAPHS: ION STOKES