

THE POSTPONED PETWORTH PARK ANTIQUES & FINE ART FAIR IS A HUGE SOCIALLY DISTANCED SUCCESS



SOLD - 'The Orient liner Orcades outward bound on a starlit night and passing the Calshot Spit lightship in Southampton Water' oil on canvas by Charles Pears PSMA, ROI (1873-1958), signed, 92 x 124.5cm, priced in the region of £16,500 from Rountree Tryon Galleries

The much-anticipated annual Petworth Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair, postponed from May, finally took place to much acclaim from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September 2020. The setting of Petworth Park, bathed in autumn sunshine throughout the weekend, was the perfect backdrop to the marquee housing the 50 exhibitors alongside their wealth of stock beautifully displayed on stands in a single alleyway creating a one-way system to abide by COVID-19 safety rules. Dealers and the organising team wore face shields while the visitors came attired in a myriad of different face masks that have now become something of a fashion statement.

Organiser Ingrid Nilson of The Antiques Dealers Fair Limited summed up the fair saying, "After months of planning and being on tenterhooks, it was a huge relief to see the fair open and visitors turning out in such great numbers in the glorious weather. It is quite evident that there was pent up demand which benefited the vast majority of exhibitors as well as the many shops and galleries in Petworth itself. Hats off to the dealers who were willing to take part despite all the uncertainty and I am so glad we were able to provide some much needed business for all the hugely supportive contractors involved in the event. The fair was a tremendous team effort across our industry and proved that live shows definitely have a role to play in the art and antiques world."

Attendance was excellent on all three days and there was a long socially distanced queue snaking its way through the park on the opening day. Visitors were keen to buy and various dealers reported instant sales including **Freya Mitton** who sold a painting literally minutes after the fair opened. The

THE ANTIQUES DEALERS FAIR LIMITED

The Petworth Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair

11 - 13 September 2020



SOLD - Coalport ewer, c.1900, priced in the region of £3,000 from Julian Eade Antiques



SOLD - Regency decorated four-fold screen from William Cook

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gentleman came onto her stand and said, "I'll have that," referring to a *Still Life* by Adrian Ryan (1920-1988) priced at £2,000 and then did not return to her stand to collect his purchase for another couple of hours. Freya Mitton also sold an oil by Mary Fedden that same day. **Ellis Fine Art** reported a quick sale of a Cuban mahogany bureau, c.1750, within the first two hours of the fair. Three and a half hours after opening, **Richard Price** said that he was already well into profit and had sold his best miniature carriage clock. "I am delighted with the way the fair has started selling two good carriage clocks before lunch on the opening day to new customers priced in the region of £4,000 each." He continued to have a lot of significant interest. In the last half hour of the fair, he sold a lovely carriage clock and an elephant swinging automaton. "I am now extremely happy with the fair. I have possible further sales pending. Everything I sold has been to new customers, which is fantastic."

Picture sales were healthy with **Rountree Tryon Galleries** selling well on the opening day, amongst which was *The Orient liner Orcades outward bound on a starlit night and passing the Calshot Spit lightship in Southampton Water* by Charles Pears PSMA, ROI (1873-1958) priced in the region of £16,500. Jamie Rountree is quoted as saying, "This has been one of the most exciting days I have ever spent at a fair," referring to the opening day.

First-time exhibitor **Jenna Burlingham Fine Art** was very complimentary about the fair with sales including two paintings by Modern British artists Martin Bradley (b.1931) and Mary Adshead (1904-1995). Local Petworth dealer Max Andrews from **Ottocento** was amazed by the footfall on the opening morning. He sold *L'Escargot* by Jean de Mailly (1911-1975) in the region of £1,500 and has plenty to follow up. A wonderful sale took place after the fair was over. With everyone packing up around her, Ruth Cope of **Granta Fine Art** sold a Rose Hilton nude to a new client, priced in the region of £4,000. Tom Mehigan of **Thomas Spencer Fine Art** sold well with sales including prints by Ben Nicholson, Mary Fedden, Alan Jones and Eric Gill, a Mary Fedden drawing, a watercolour of Florence by Marcel Jeffries and a Peter Wright sculpture. "We are very happy; it has gone very well. People have been decisive and keen to buy." Sales ranged between £850 to £3,500. After the fair, Tom Mehigan wrote, "I just wanted to say thank you for putting on a wonderful fair. It was my second most profitable fair I have done and now with two after sales might take top spot."

Furniture was in demand with **Petworth Antiques Market** selling three big pieces of furniture including a table, commode and a chest, all in the £3,000 region. Ron Chambers of the Petworth Antiques Market said they were delighted with the response to their stand, as well as being able to promote the antiques market in the town. **William Cook** was pleased with the positive turnout of visitors and he made sales to both existing and new clients. His stand was an eclectic mixture of furniture and decorative objects and he sold consistently throughout the weekend including a rare Regency decorated four-fold screen. He found many of his clients to be price sensitive with £4,000 being the top end and said that people were definitely buying to furnish their homes.



Sales on BEAR Petworth's stand included the shell mirror, Drum and lampstands



SOLD - Cuban mahogany bureau, c. 1750, from Ellis Fine Art



SOLD - Abstract by Paolo Boni, oil on canvas, priced at £3,800 from Ottocento

Walton House Antiques sold a set of six George II walnut chairs to new clients from London on the opening day priced in the region of £5,000.

Porcelain specialist **Julian Eade Antiques**, also exhibiting at the fair for the first time, was delighted with the response received. Julian Eade said "All the customers are here to spend. I have had lots of interest from people from London and as far away as Birmingham. Sales were from £20 up to £6,000 including a Tiffany service and individual pieces by Coalport, Royal Worcester and Royal Doulton, a Coalport tea-cup and saucer with raised gilt and turquoise jewellery made the Chicago World Fair of 1893 and a Royal Crown Derby cup and saucer which sold together with a Coalport ewer for £6,000."

Having visited the fair on many previous occasions **Kenneth Neame Limited** decided to take a stand and were thrilled with their decision. They made two excellent sales and since the fair have made a number of appointments for clients to come and visit them in London. "Follow-ups are our lifeline," said René Sattler.

Contemporary design fitted in well with the antiques and handmade and hand-finished tableware with an Oceanic theme by **Tom Rooth Fine Art**. "They literally flew off the wall and people just loved them," said a delighted Tom Rooth.

Claire Penhallurick opened her new business **BEAR Petworth** the previous week and was impressed with how many people had come from London. Speaking about the opening day, Claire said, "It has been a really good day and has had such a positive feeling. It has been lovely to welcome visitors from so far afield."

David Hickmet of **Hickmet Fine Arts** said that there was pent up interest and he sold every day. "It all adds up."

Mark West reported, "We sold everything from Chinese and African items and 18th to 20th century glass. One young couple bought a large mid-19th century Tuareg pot. I was pleased to meet two clients I had never met before, but I got to know them online during lockdown."

Cairen Jones from **Something Different** summed up the fair, "It's been a lovely weekend. I've really, really enjoyed myself."

Elizabeth Lee, part of **PAADA** and owner of Tudor Rose Antiques in the market town of Petworth said that her shop had been really busy on all three days. "No sooner had I shown people out than more people were arriving. I was offering them tickets to go to the fair, but they had all been to the fair first and were then seeing what the town had to offer."

The day after the fair closed, Ingrid Nilson received a charming telephone call from a happy visitor congratulating the team on how safe the fair felt, how



SOLD - 'Truffling' by Anna Pugh, priced at £14,500 from Lucy B Campbell Gallery



SOLD - oil by Martin Bradley from Jenna Burlingham Fine Art



Labels for sold items on Thomas Spencer Fine Art's stand

pleasant and helpful everyone was and how good the grab and go catering was. They had been apprehensive but were full of joy and gratitude.

Preliminary dates for next year's Petworth Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair are Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May 2021.

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Notes to editors:

All items for sale at this fair are vetted for quality and authenticity. The majority of the exhibitors are members of the UK's two professional associations: **The British Antique Dealers' Association** or **LAPADA The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers**.

The fair raises funds for the **Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust** and was supported by the **National Trust, Brilliant Gin, Hennings Wine, Anderson Rowntree Solicitors, First Class Holidays, Petworth Antiques And Decorative Arts association, Petworth Marquees** and **Petworth Business Association**.



Vintage cars parked outside the marquee on Sunday



Outdoor café area



www.petworthparkfair.com