

ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY

koopman rare art



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The £80,000 picture before Bellany went off the railings



Works by John Bellany (1942-2013) abound at auction, with at least 2000 pictures sold in the last 10 years. However, his stylistically distinct early works are much rarer and, as such, are highly prized by collectors.

One of his youthful 'railing paintings', *The Finnon Smoker*, emerged at McTear's (24% buyer's premium) in Glasgow on May 29.

This group of works refers to the paintings made in his early 20s that were part of the protest exhibitions he and fellow art student Alexander Moffat staged outside the Scottish National Gallery and Royal Scottish Academy during the Edinburgh festivals from 1963-5. They nailed their pictures to the railings.

Rejecting what they regarded as the restrictive tastes and practices of these 'Anglicised' institutions, the impoverished duo offered the works for sale and invited the public to make donations via a piggy bank placed on a card table on the pavement outside. Most of the works Bellany sold have been lost,

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Left: *The Finnon Smoker* by John Bellany – £80,000 at McTear's.

Pick of the week

Summer Special



SUMMER OF Art & Antiques

Where to go and what to buy this summer

FAIRS	PREVIEWS
A super summer finale	Traditional art
Philip Hone's Jubilee tribute	20th century art
The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia	Design
Masterspiece	Furniture & vessels of art
London Art Week	Silver, watches & jewellery
TEFAF Maastricht	Ceramics
BRAFA	Collectables
	International auctions

Inside this week's issue we present a special section dedicated to events taking place this summer.

Exceptionally for 2022, this means not just fairs, exhibitions and auctions in the UK but also two major events in continental Europe that would usually be held at other times of the year – *TEFAF Maastricht* and *BRAFA*. All are expecting to benefit from pent-up demand as buyers return after two disrupted years.

To help readers navigate the glut of high-quality events coming up we provide enhanced previews across a wide range of collecting disciplines from both the UK and around the world.

Wherever you choose to visit, we wish you a successful – and safe – summer.

See pages 25-79

The **LARGEST** Antiques & Collectors Fair in the South

Ardingly

TUES 21 & WEDS 22 JUNE

Tuesday 9am - 5pm £20 (Tuesday ticket allows entry on Wednesday) Wednesday 8am - 4pm £5

South of England Showground, West Sussex RH17 6TL

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SUMMER OF Art & Antiques



The summer season is back in force. For the first time since 2019 there is a wealth of major art and antiques events for eager buyers and dealers – both in London and in Europe.

“To finally be going back again is very enticing and we have taken a larger stand than ever before,” says Robert Young, one of the exhibitors at *Masterpiece London*. He predicts the fair will appeal to “an audience starved of ‘in person’ art and antiques fairs” and draw huge crowds.

Attending every event this year will be a challenge. Here is the logistical balancing act:

First, *BRAFA Art Fair* opens in Brussels and runs from June 19-26 (not to mention the contemporary giant *Art Basel* which will draw crowds from June 16-19). Then it’s over to west London for *The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia* (June 23-26) and the West End for *Mayfair Art Weekend* (June 24-26).

So far so good – except then it’s time for *TEFAF Maastricht*, the huge traditional European art fair which has swapped its usual March slot for the summer this year (June 25-30). Somewhat controversially, the new dates mean that *Masterpiece London*, the similarly high-level event in Chelsea, overlaps *TEFAF* by one day, opening on June 30 and running until July 6. But once you

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are there it’s a shame not to miss *London Art Week* that takes place around various London galleries from July 3-8 and *Asian Art in London’s* inaugural summer walking trail (June 29-July 2). Exhausted? You will be.

Of course, with such a packed schedule, some galleries have had to make difficult decisions.

Martin Levy, director at H Blairman & Sons, chose *Masterpiece* over *TEFAF*.

“I was somewhat surprised the organisers of *TEFAF* had chosen dates that clash with an established event at the height of the summer in London,” he says. “Fairs only survive with the support of the dealers, and this has put everyone under unnecessary pressure. The art market belongs to London in June. This has traditionally been the case and will continue.”

However, Young expects many VIP visitors will make both events. “My hunch is that the serious

international buyers (both collectors and institutional) will attend both previews and each event will retain the loyal local visitor base they have built up over the years,” he says. “Northern Europe will be the place to be in the second half of June.”

As a specialist in European paintings, Dover Street gallery Stair Sainty was among those choosing *TEFAF*. Earlier in the year, gallery director Thomas Smith said: “We would have done both if they hadn’t moved. Even if they’d been just a couple of weeks apart, we might have considered it. We were

Above: one showstopper at *Masterpiece* is set to be this triceratops skull, which will take up half of David Aaron’s stand. From the late Cretaceous Period, c.68-66 million years ago, it is 5ft 7in (1.7m) high and 4ft 11in (1.5m) long and is offered for a **six-figure sum**

Where to go and what to buy this summer

ANTIQUES TRADE
gazette

Right: Robin Martin Antiques brings this pair of silver mounted Imari square bottle vases or Tokari, dating from 1700, with an asking price of **£12,000** to *The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia*.

