

London International Fine Art Fair: Beauty & Elegance

By: Karen Dabrowska

No expense was spared at the London International Art Fair held at the Olympia exhibition centre in June to display the antiques, paintings of all periods, sculpture, furniture, modern design, jewellery, silver, textiles, books and objects d'art in an elegant atmosphere which enhanced their beauty.



Entrance to the fair

Following a complete refurbishment, the grand historic venue of Olympia was transformed into an elegant arena for commerce and appreciation for dealers, collectors and lovers of art and

antiques alike. Landscape architect Dr Christine Facer transformed the fair space with a unique landscape garden and shrubs. The light-filled glass and roofs were reminiscent of the great exhibitions of the Victorian Age.

With a 37 year history London International Fine Art Fair (LIFAF) is the largest and most established fair of its kind. This year's exhibition brought together more than 150

prestigious British and international dealers, private buyers, curators and interior designers. New dealers from Belgium, China, France, Italy, Taiwan and the USA were represented at the fair along with dealers who participate regularly in the distinguished American International Fine Art Fair in Palm Beach, The European Fine Art Fair, the Winter Antiques Show and the Art Basel Fairs.





An explosion of colour



Landscape garden



"Masters Revisited" brought together the old and the new with contemporary artists responding to the work of Old Masters.

The fair's highlights included:

- * Paintings and drawings by 15th century Italian masters such as Neri di Bicci and 18th century British masters such as Constable and Turner;

- * Pop artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and more recent works by Lynn Chadwick and Julian Schnabel;

- * Important pieces of jewellery designed by Man Ray and other works from collections of Joan Crawford and Andy Warhol and from the Italian jewellers Sabbadini;

- * Impressive furniture including a French Empire giltwood bed that belonged to the famous French

Antique furniture



Model plane



Asian antiques



Royal tray



minister and diplomat Charles Maurice Talleyrand, a medal winning cabinet from the Paris exposition of 1848 and a 1980's bronze armchair from Claude Lalanne;

*Books such as a first edition copy of Adam Smith's seminal "An Inquiry to the Nature and Cause of Wealth of Nations".

The oldest works on sale were 65 million year old natural sculptures:

Cretaceous period dinosaur skulls. A lost masterpiece which took 17 years to make was awarded winner of the 2010 country-Life LAPADA object of the Year, which was announced at the fair. It was a Hausburg Cabinet – a remarkable ebony and marquetry miniature representation of the exterior of Rheims Cathedral with doors opening to reveal an astonishing interior hall. It was submitted for the competition by Butchoff

Antiques of Kensington Church Street in West London.

Ian Butchoff of Butchoff Antiques said "it is without doubt the most exceptional piece of furniture we have been lucky enough to own in 46 years of business".

The fair showed that London has now emerged, along with the USA, as the major global focal point and marketplace for international fine art and antiques which can be appreciated by dealers and members of the public.

Classic painting



Visitors admiring the stands

