

Antiques Trade gazette

The Art Market Weekly

koopman rare art



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Bohemian banker danced with joy when buying art

Lyon & Turnbull sold the collection of the banker and financier Bernard Kelly (1930-2022) at The Mall Galleries in London on January 15.

The 314-lot sale, an eclectic mix of art antiques from Renaissance and Baroque paintings and bronzes to 20th Modern British art, totalled £1.87m with fees.

Kelly's long collecting odyssey existed parallel to his interest in business. His mix of art was described by L&T specialist Philip Smith as "part grand European country-house, part bohemian Chelsea flat".

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Right: *The Dancers* by Roger Fry, sold for **£28,000** as part of the Bernard Kelly collection offered by Lyon & Turnbull.

Sotheran's moves to the Cecil Court antiques hub

by Stewart Cumiskey

Sotheran's, the longest-established rare book dealer in the world, has announced it will be relocating later this year to new premises in Charing Cross Road and Cecil Court.

Since moving to London in 1815, Sotheran's has operated from 19 locations, most recently from 18 Upper Brook Street in Mayfair. Asked what prompted this latest move, Chris Saunders, director of collections said it was due to German property contractors,

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Fairs enough

Bumper selection of event previews

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Bravo for BRAFA's 70th birthday

For this year's edition, the *Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair* (BRAFA) will be celebrating its 70th outing. Since its inception, this prestigious event has maintained its reputation as one of Europe's leading art and antiques fairs, and the world's most established. For many observers, it is seen as a dependable barometer of the global art market.

When BRAFA stepped into the limelight in 1955, it was held under the name *Foire des antiquaires* in the Salle Arlequin of the Galeries Louise in Brussels. The initiative, which came from Charles Van Hove, the chairman of the Belgian Chamber of Antique Dealers at the time, sought to unite the country's leading antiques dealers, which amounted to 20 participants.

There were only two competing international art fairs at the time of its foundation: *Grosvenor House* in London and *Prinsenhof* in Delft.

Over time, it has expanded, changed venues several times and evolved to include Modern and Contemporary art. Hailed for its eclecticism, BRAFA also offers tribal art, jewellery, silverware and design, with the most qualitative galleries in each specialty carefully selected for each edition.

BRAFA 2025 will host approximately 130 galleries from 16 countries and welcome 65,000 visitors over eight days. Since moving to Brussels Expo in 2022, the fair has enjoyed the benefits of the space (21,000sq m) and infrastructure of this historic site, a legacy of the Brussels world fairs of 1935 and 1958.

Fresh faces

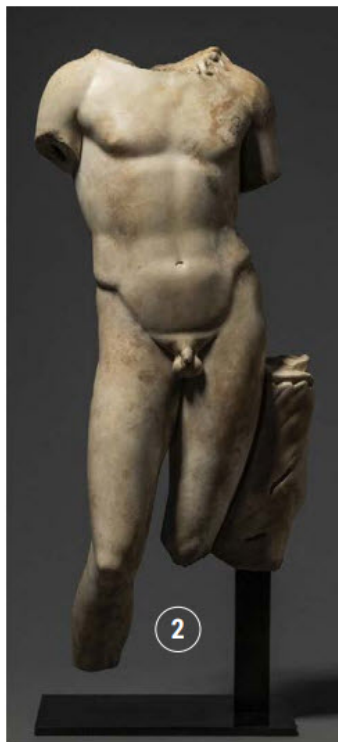
The BRAFA board of directors selected 16 new exhibitors, largely on the basis of the quality of the works on offer.

Colnaghi, which is based in London, New York, Madrid and Brussels, is one of the new participants. Founded in 1760, the gallery has established itself in Europe and the US as one of the leading dealers in Old Master paintings, prints and drawings.

For this year's fair, it is exhibiting a rediscovered white marble work titled *Torso of a Male Divinity*, from Roman, Late Republic or Early Imperial, c.1st century BC to 1st century AD. It is thought to be of Apollo, from the revered 17th century Giustiniani Collection, first



1. Roman *Torso of a Male Divinity*, priced in the region of £500,000 by Colnaghi.
2. 'Rhamses' bed by Louis Malard with a bench and two chairs, offered for €660,000 by Galerie Marc Maison.
3. *The Denial of Saint Peter* by Bartolomeo Manfredi, offered Giammarco Cappuzzo Fine Art for €1.8m.
4. *Venise, palais et gondoliers sur le Grand Canal* by Henri Martin, €450,000-500,000 at Stern Pissarro.



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assembled by the Marquis Vincenzo Giustiniani (1564-1637).

An influential aristocratic banker, Giustiniani amassed a large collection of paintings as well as sculpture that was housed in his palazzo in Rome near the Pantheon and at his family's country estates. The gallery has given a price in the region of £500,000 for the sculpture.



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Stoppenbach and Delestre, founded in 1982 and also based in London, will be taking part in the BRAFA for the first time.

Located in St James's, Stern Pissarro is returning to the fair with works including an oil on canvas by Henri Martin (1860-1943). *Venise, palais et gondoliers sur le Grand Canal* is signed on the lower right and is offered for €450,000-500,000.

Galerie Marc Maison will no doubt cause swivelling eyeballs with a stand focused on the theme of Egyptomania. The highlight will probably be a majestic 'Rhamses' bed by Louis Malard. It was presented by its creator at the 1889 Paris Exposition in Group III (furniture and accessories), where it garnered significant attention.

Le Figaro of July 1, 1889, provided a detailed description of the piece, calling it an "entirely novel and highly decorative creation". The jury also praised the piece as the work of a "skilful designer", awarding Malard a bronze medal.

The bed was acquired by Countess Bathilde Ducos, daughter of a former naval minister under Napoleon III, who commissioned an entire bedroom in this style. It was later purchased by Charles Henri Duquesne before being acquired by Galerie Marc Maison. Together with a bench and two chairs, the bed is being offered for €660,000.

Giammarco Cappuzzo Fine Art is showing *The Denial of Saint Peter*, (c 1618-20) by Bartolomeo Manfredi (1582-1622), who was active mainly

Art fair offers capital ideas for buying both emerging and established names

London Art Fair (LAF) returns to the Business Design Centre in Islington from January 22-26.

With prices ranging from £200 to £380,000, the event offers both experienced and aspiring collectors a lively mix of Modern and Contemporary art, alongside curated displays, and a fascinating programme of talks, panel discussions and live artist interviews.

Sitting next to the main fair are curated sections called *Platform* and *Encounters* which will feature the next generation of artists, collectives and gallerists.

The fair's *Prints & Editions* section will also return after its launch in 2024. Featuring prints and multiples from both emerging artists and household names, this offers an introduction to art collecting with more accessible prices.

For its 37th edition, LAF will welcome over 120 galleries from around the world, with 22 based in Czechia, Ireland, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey.

Modern art and Contemporary art galleries in the main fair section, including Castlegate House Gallery, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Willoughby Gerrish, Osborne Samuel and Christopher Kingzett Fine Art, will feature works by well-renowned artists such as Paula Rego, Sir Matthew Smith, Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti and Emily Young.

New exhibitors like Annka



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in Rome, where he was one of the most important of Caravaggio's followers. The oil on canvas is offered for €1.8m.

Guest of honour at BRAFA 2025 is Joana Vasconcelos, a Portuguese visual artist born in 1971. Over a 30-year career, she has made use of a wide variety of media, working with textiles, cement, metal, ceramics, glass and found objects. She is renowned for her huge sculptures and immersive installations.

Her international reputation was consolidated in 2005, at the first *Venice Biennale* curated by women, where she presented her piece *The Bride*, a classically shaped chandelier with the crystal pendants replaced by approximately 14,000 tampons.

► brafa.art

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Above: Jean-Marie Toulgouat (1927-2006), *Bordure d'Été aux Artichauts*, 1979, oil on canvas, signed and dated '79, offered for **£42,500** at **David Messum Fine Art**.

Below: Michael Leonard (British 1933-2023), *Man Reaching Down*, 1989, alkyd-oil on masonite board, signed and dated (middle left). Offered for **at least £50,000** at **Henry Miller Fine Art**.

Kultys Gallery, The Tagli, Middlemarch Fine Art, Oriol Fine Art, Narrative Gallery and Oxford Ceramics will join returning names including Osborne Samuel Gallery, Elizabeth Xi Bauer, The Redfern Gallery, Christopher Kingzett and Galerie Olivier Waltman.

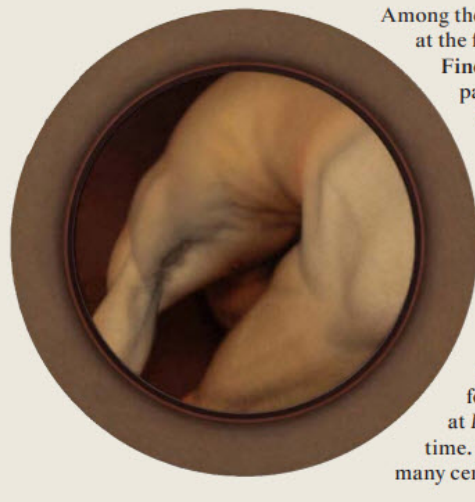
Additionally, galleries such as Studies In Photography, Glasgow Print Studios, Advanced Graphics and Julian Page will be displaying limited-edition prints and photography works by Peter Brook, Albert Irvin, Joe Tilson and Vanessa Jackson, ranging from £200 to £2000, offering a viable entry point for new buyers.

Monet descendant

Among the established dealers at the fair, David Messum

Fine Art will showcase paintings sourced directly from the studio estate of Jean-Marie Toulgouat, the great-grandson of Claude Monet.

Based in east London, Henry Miller Fine Art is a gallery with a focus on the male form and is exhibiting at LAF for the first time. The collection spans many centuries and types



of media, including paintings, drawings, prints photography and sculpture, from the 18th century to the present day. The gallery is based in Miller's period home, and is open by appointment, as well as exhibiting at fairs and galleries in central London.

Price is right

Meanwhile, one of the stand-out events is a talk by historian Jason Price, exploring the art and legacy of Modernist painter Thérèse Lessore (1884-1945).

A founding member of The London Group, Lessore created a series of paintings a century ago depicting the annual *New World's Fair Circus* at the Royal Agricultural Hall — now the Business Design Centre, where LAF takes place.

Created in the 1920s and early 1930s, Lessore's works capture the performers and audiences of the circus during a pivotal period in London's entertainment history, when live performance co-existed with the growing influence of radio and film.

In his talk, Price will discuss the historical and artistic importance of Lessore's work, reflecting on her role within British Modernism and the enduring legacy of the venue itself. *Marking a Century: The Circus Paintings of Thérèse Lessore* is on January 23 (noon-1pm).

► londonartfair.co.uk