

Sculptures Shine at Antiques for Everyone

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE
NEC, BIRMINGHAM B40 1NT
1 – 4 November 2007

Dealers specialising in art and sculpture were among the busiest of all the 400 exhibitors who filled three halls of the NEC for the winter **Antiques for Everyone** fair, which took place from 1 – 4 November 2007. Many exhibitors achieved significant sales, notably French bronze specialists **Garret & Hurst** from Sussex who sold an impressive work by Louis Ernest Barrias (1841-1905), titled *La Nature se Devoilant Devant la Science*, circa 1895, measuring 97cm tall, for £58,000. Said proprietor Margaret Cowley: ‘This was one of the most important pieces we have ever sold and it was particularly pleasing to see it go to one of our regular younger collectors – a lady under 40 in fact. We sold several other pieces too, making this our most successful fair ever at the NEC’.



Books Illustrated, dealers from Salisbury, also enjoyed a most successful fair, not only selling numerous original watercolour illustrations from the 19th and 20th centuries but also several larger bronze sculptures by the contemporary artist Vivien Mallock, including two of a ballerina, each at 3ft 6ins tall, for £12,500 each. ‘It’s been our best November fair at the NEC to date’, said Mike Emeny at the close.

Callaghan Fine Paintings, the Shrewsbury dealers, similarly enjoyed sales of contemporary bronze sculpture, in addition to finding customers for a number of 20th century paintings. ‘It’s been a good and busy fair,’ said Danny Callaghan. Art Deco specialists **Hickmet Fine Art** from London, showing a wide range of high quality bronze figurines, also sold extremely well.

Fine art proved particularly popular across the fair, including dealers in higher priced oils such as **Haynes Fine Art** and **Trinity House Fine Art**, both from Broadway, Worcestershire, to watercolour specialists **Brunswick Gallery** from Lancashire, who made no fewer than twenty-eight separate sales, and **Ryland Fine Art** from Drifffield, who sold more than twenty-five oils in the £2,000 to £5,000 region. Others pleased with sales included **Graham Reed Fine Art** from Ripon, **Rob Whittle Fine Art** from Birmingham, **Baron Fine Art** from Chester and **Phoenix**

Fine Art from Cheshire. Commenting, **Tony Haynes** said: 'It's been very pleasing to meet new and regular collectors who buy at the top end and continue to come to the NEC'.

Ceramics continued to be very popular, although many exhibitors noted that buyers were showing more discernment than earlier in the year. Later 19th century and early 20th century pieces proved most popular, along with early English pottery. **A.D.Antiques** from Staffordshire enjoyed a very successful four days, selling art pottery across the board, while **Wayne Hopton** from Exeter, specialising in Moorcroft, was also pleased with business. Among the pottery dealers, **Robert Hawker** from Rugby described the fair as his 'best ever'.

Among the furniture specialists a number of exhibitors reported very good sales, notably **Church Street Antiques & Interiors** from Altrincham, who sold a superb Gillows mahogany Imperial Patent dining table, circa 1800, seating up to sixteen people, that went to a private client for £44,000. Also selling keenly was **Yellow Lantern Antiques** from Hove, making sales of mainly Georgian and Regency century pieces; **Melody's Antiques** from Cheshire, who sold three period dressers to one local private buyer (Mike Melody described the NEC event as 'A rock solid fair for business'); and **Richard and Susannah Midwinter Antiques** from Staffordshire who sold a number of oak and country items and early needlework pieces. **Beechridge Antiques** from Poole sold a number of period pieces including a large bookcase, a chest on chest, a library chair and a quantity of early walking sticks. Art Deco furniture specialists **Le Style 25** from London was very pleased with business, so too local dealers **Destijl** from Dudley, also specialising in Art Deco furniture and accessories.

In other areas, miniature paintings specialist **Cynthia Walmsley** from Nottingham was extremely delighted with sales, so too decorative mirrors specialists **On Reflection** from Somerset, newcomers **Angling Antiques** from Durham, **Simply Antiques** from East Anglia, specialising in card cases; jewellery dealers including **Paul James** from Northamptonshire, barometer specialist **Alan Walker** from Hungerford, **Hampton Antiques** from Staffordshire, specialising in period boxes; and folk art specialists **Erna Hiscock** and **John Shepherd** from Kent who sold to **American** traders visiting the UK especially for the NEC fair. Among other overseas buyers were a group of private Russian collectors, well known among several exhibitors, and a small number of German, Dutch and Italian collectors.

Most exhibitors were pleased with the high level of attendance and encouraged by the fact that so many visitors kept the fair busy up until closing time each day. The number of exhibitors also increased by 30, of which 21 were new faces in Section Two and seven new in Section One, while the others were returning after a period of absence.

The Loan Exhibition, A Passion for Gothic, presented by Hardman & Co. from Birmingham, was widely praised as the most spectacular ever seen at the fair. Proprietor Neil Phillips was extremely delighted with public reaction to the sumptuous display, which included several huge stained glass cathedral windows, chandeliers that once belonged to Cher, a vast number of ecclesiastical gilt bronze pieces and a large display of original drawings by Pugin and his pupils.

The next Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC takes place from 27 – 30 March 2008.

The National Fine Art & Antiques Fair, held in association with LAPADA, takes place from 16 – 20 January 2008.

Further information and images from:

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