

Contents *Issue 2681*

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In The News

page 4-5

Holkham Hall attic auction to savour held in situ

Market-fresh Cedric Morris painting emerges

UK treasure finds at an all-time high, report reveals

News Digest

page 8-9

Includes our pick of the week

Feature – Ceramics

Sir Bruno Welby collection auction brings huge range of European items for sale. Plus: interview with a collector of H&R Daniel ceramics - *p14-21*

Auction Reports

ART MARKET

Workplace pictures do good business *page 22-23, 25*

BOOKS AND WORKS ON PAPER

Rare appearance of Martin Luther Bible *page 26-27*

Previews

page 30-31

Dealers' Diary

page 34-37

Looking ahead to *TEFAF* and London print events

International Events

page 39-46

UK Auction Calendar

page 48-53

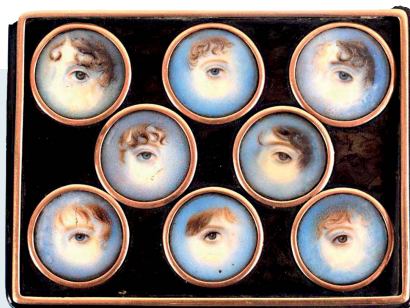
Fairs, Markets, Shops & Centres *page 56-58*

Letters & Opinion

page 63

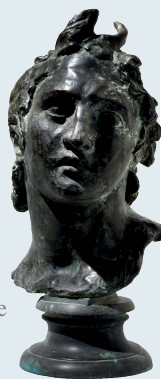
Word of god

Martin Luther 1534 Bible makes first auction appearance for over a century *page 26-27*



The eyes have it

Such striking miniatures were possibly intended as a lover's gift from c.1790 to early 1830s *page 8*



Taking shape

A look at some of the stand-out items that will be available at *TEFAF Maastricht* *page 36-37*

Not so humble

'Locksmith' shown in painting was a famous royal figure *page 22-25*



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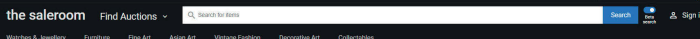
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TEFAF Maastricht : 266 exhibitors from 21 countries prepared for action

TEFAF Maastricht will return to the Maastricht Exhibition & Conference Centre (MECC) in the Netherlands from March 15-20. This year's edition will bring together 266 exhibitors from 21 countries to showcase 7000 years of fine art, antiques, and design – just four galleries shy of the participation in 2024.

Of those galleries, 26 will be joining TEFAF in Maastricht for the first time, including France's Galerie Lelong & Co, Thomas Deprez Fine Arts of Brussels, London's Piano Nobile, and New York's Marianne Boesky Gallery.



Photo: Lorraine Bodevies. Courtesy of TEFAF

View of a previous TEFAF Maastricht.



1

Packs a punch

Piano Nobile was established by Dr Robert Travers in 1985. The gallery has been based in London's Holland Park for over 20 years and is currently run by Robert and his son Matthew. In 2019, it opened an extra space on Portland Road.

Among an eye-popping selection of works the firm will be exhibiting at TEFAF is *Boxers*, a Portland stone sculpture by Eric Gill (1882-1940), undoubtedly one of the most significant sculptors of the early 20th century, but also one of the most controversial. Fiona MacCarthy's biography, published in 1989, dished shocking revelations about Gill's private life, based on evidence from his private diaries.

The sexual abuse he perpetrated is a categorically gruelling business. Even his pet dog wasn't safe. In 1998, a group, Ministers and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors, called for Gill's *Stations of the Cross* to be removed from Westminster Cathedral. There were also calls for his statue of St Michael the Archangel to be removed from St Patrick's Catholic Church in Dumbarton. The works remain in situ.

When Gill's sculpture of Prospero and Ariel at the BBC was vandalised, art critic Jonathan Jones said: "Biography enlivens art, yet it is not art. And art, however lifelike, isn't life."

Boxers is offered for £480,000.

Conceived and cast in 1965, Barbara Hepworth's *Trophy (Flight)* was a commissioned sculpture by Air



2

Commodore Whitney Straight, to recognise the achievement of women in aviation. He loaned the award to London's Royal Aeronautical Society in 1967 where recipients of the annual prize (including pilots Anne Burns and Yvonne Pope Sintes in 1967 and 1974, and engineer Peggy Hodges OBE in 1970) received the trophy and a cheque for £200.

In 1939, Hepworth (1903-75) made her first sculpture threaded with strings. For the rest of her career, she intermittently combined string with works made from plaster, wood, metal and stone.

In addition to bringing this sculpture to TEFAF, Piano Nobile is hosting an exhibition – *Barbara Hepworth: Strings* – to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the artist's death. The show runs until May 2.

Ancient offerings

David Aaron is no stranger to the

A selection of items on offer at the upcoming TEFAF Maastricht

1. Eric Gill, *Boxers*, 1913, Portland stone with polychromy, 22 x 19¼ x 6¾in (56 x 49 x 17cm), offered for **£480,000** by **Piano Nobile**.

2. Barbara Hepworth, *Trophy (Flight)*, 1965, numbered on the underside 2/2, bronze, 17in (43cm), priced **£325,000 + ARR** also at Piano Nobile.

3. Bronze mask of Alexander by Vincenzo Gemito, **£85,000** at **Stuart Lochhead Sculpture**.

4. Amlash female figure, c. early 1st millennium BC, Iran, terracotta, **£65,000** at **David Aaron**, Greek, bronze, available for **£245,000**.

5. Also from David Aaron, a Corinthian helmet c.6th century BC.

6. Peter Harrington is offering Emile-Allain Seguy's *Insectes* (three views shown) with a **guide price of £25,000**.

ancient world and for TEFAF, the London gallery will be exhibiting a terracotta idol in the form of a standing female figure with her arms folded over her midriff.

The Amlash ceramics of Iron-Age Iran are named after a small modern town in the northern province of Gilan, just south of the Caspian Sea. Amlash finds have been passing through the small market town and entering the antiquities market in Iran, Europe, and the US since the 1930s. Much of what has survived seems to have held spiritual or ritual functions.

The exaggerated

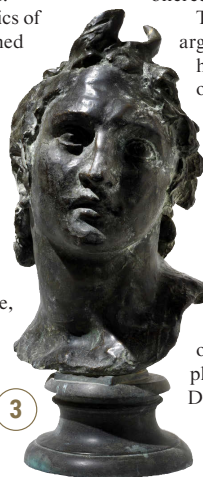
hips and buttocks of this figurine suggest it was associated with fertility and may have been used in religious or apotropaic rituals. It is offered for £65,000.

The Corinthian helmet is arguably the most iconic of Greek helmet styles and can be seen on more sculpture from the period than any other helmet – suggesting the Greeks romantically linked it with glory and inspirational history. The historian Herodotus mentions the Corinthian helmet as part of the equipment of the Greek hoplite (foot soldier).

This bronze helmet made of a single hammered bronze plate is offered for £245,000 by David Aaron.

Great mask

A rare bronze mask of



3



4

Alexander by Vincenzo Gemito (1852-1929) will be exhibited at *TEFAF* by **Stuart Lochhead Sculpture** which is located in New Bond Street, London.

Cast in 1920, the mask is one of only five casts ever made originating from a plaster model now housed at the Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Roma.

In 1887 Gemito suffered a mental collapse and withdrew to one room, concentrating entirely on drawing



5

and barely speaking to anyone.

He spent much of next 18 years as a recluse in his own home. Around 1909 he resumed sculpting, basing his works on the ancients with a delicacy and detail that ultimately derived from his drawings.

Conceived during his recovery, this mask, available for £85,000, embodies his newfound focus on archetypal and mythological figures, merging the artist's technical brilliance with his deep connection to antiquity.

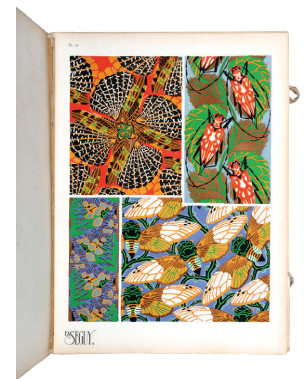


6

Exquisite work

Also based in London, rare book firm **Peter Harrington** is bringing a first edition of Emile-Allain Seguy's masterful portfolio of possibly his most effective collection. *Insectes* contains 16 plates of naturalistically rendered insects, followed by four composite plates.

Insectes is rarely found complete, and this copy is inscribed by the author on the title plate, *Pour Colette Gueden, la fée primavera, son ami E. A. Seguy, Julliet 39.*



The punning inscription to 'the spring fairy' refers to Gueden's role as director of Primavera, the design studio of the Parisian department store Printemps.

Seguy founded the artistic department of Printemps in 1913. As director, he oversaw the publication of the store's luxurious catalogues and the execution of its innovative displays until 1924.

The guide price for this exquisite work is £25,000.

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