

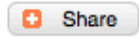
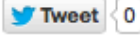
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BIENNALE DES ANTIQUAIRES

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Sneak Peek: What to Expect at the Biennale des Antiquaires

by Sonia Kolesnikov-Jessop 09/09/14 9:45 AM EDT



From left: to be found respectively at Galerie Christian Deydier/Didier Claes/Galerie Mermoz.

The **Biennale des Antiquaires** will open its doors to VIP collectors on Wednesday,

Sep 10, and to the general public the following day, with a treasure-trove of rare antiques, tribal artworks, silver, porcelains, design furniture, and a range of artworks that represent the best in their respective categories.

Housed under the elegant glass roof of the Grand Palais, the XVII Biennale promises visitors the best of everything – a Versailles Garden-themed scenography by French interior designer **Jacques Grange** complete with an olfactory fountain by **Francis Kurkdjian** aiming to plunge visitors into the heart of the 18th century with a “Bouquet de la Reine” fragrance; an exclusive gastronomic experience over all 11 days of the event, with a succession of chefs, one for each day, from well-known **Relais & Chateaux** restaurants; and of course, the most exclusive selection of antiques, objects d’art, and haute joaillerie in the world.

With every exhibitor thoroughly vetted, the biennale is about quality and authenticity, says **Hervé Aaron**, president of the biennale’s organizing committee. “Dealers bring the best pieces they can offer. It is an event that symbolizes French luxury in culture and décor,” he muses.

This year’s edition is a relatively compact affair with only 89 exhibitors presenting their wares, compared with 150 exhibitors in 2012.

Antiques

The biennale’s staple is antiques and collectors are in for a treat.

In the Asian Art category, the **Gisèle Croës Gallery** of Brussels is presenting a selection of objects illustrating the diversity of Chinese culture over various dynasties with pride of place given to archaic bronze vessels, which have long been the signature pieces of the gallery. A particularly spectacular piece is a pair of Hu (wine vessels) with a sophisticated decoration that can be dated back to the Spring and Autumn period (770-481 BCE) but the selection also includes bronze vessels whose style is typical of the first Chinese dynasties. **Galerie Christian Deydier** is presenting a very rare 6th century AD Haniwa Terracotta horse head from Japan along with a stunning bronze wine vase decorated with silver and gold dating from the start of the early Han Dynasty (2nd century AD), while the Portuguese **Jorge Welsh** gallery will offer a Japanese hammered iron Namban helmet (kabuto), dating from the late 16th/early 17th century. **Jacques Barrere** gallery has chosen to focus on a Silk Road theme, presenting a variety of antiques from Buddhist sculptures to a rare golden crown of laurels, from Bactriane, Afghanistan (2th-3rdth BCE).

For the Primitive Art Category, **Didier Claes** of Brussels is returning for a second time with a selection of African icons, masks, and sculptures, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa, which he describes as “Classical African Arts.” Amongst his offerings this time are an elegant Kuba cup (Democratic Republic of Congo), dating from the late 19th century and a carved Zande harp (also from the Democratic Republic of Congo).

Meanwhile, **Galerie Bernard Dulon** presents an intriguing series of nail fetish power figures (Nkisi) from Congo, as well as an okuyi masj from Gabon, dating from the 19th century.

Phoenix Ancient Art is offering a museum-worthy collection of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman artefacts, including a stunning bronze statue of Amun, dated 1334-1325 BCE, and small Roman statuette of Tyche in chalcedony, dated to the 1st century AD).

Galerie Chenel, which has collaborated with the French designer Ora-ïto for its minimalist booth, also has a Gréco-Romaine 'Tête de Koré,' that once belonged in the collection of Roger Vivier. **Galerie Mermoz** has a beautiful standing dignitary from Teotihuacan, Mexico, dating (450–650 AD).

Period furniture

As Hervé Aaron of the **Galerie Didier Aaron & Cie** notes, "period furniture is currently doing extremely well on the art market," and as such the Biennale has several specialists to tempt collectors.

The **Kraemer Gallery** presents "Twins," 18th century furniture and objects d'art that have their twin in some of the world's most prestigious museums, such as the Potsdam in Berlin, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and the Residenz Museum in Munich. Of note will be a rare marquetry inlaid regulator decorated with chased gilt bronze mounts made by cabinetmaker Jean-Pierre Latz and commissioned by King Frederick II of Prussia, the twin for this piece is at the Potsdam Neues Palais in Berlin.

Galerie François Léage, another specialist in 18th-century French furniture, has a pair of Louis XV corner cupboards with beautiful coromandel lacquer panels and vernis martin featuring an elaborate decoration with gilt bronze mounts, while **Galerie Steinitz** has a rare Louis XV Ormolu Cartel Clock, circa 1740-45, attributed to the cabinet maker and sculptor Charles Cressent.

Unlike the previous years when the company focused more on 18th century furniture, **Galerie Didier Aaron & Cie** is this time presenting a selection with a stronger 19th century focus. "This was an era where decorative styles are moving towards a heightened sense of freedom and a wider range of tastes and diversity. Today, the boundaries between the past and the present are blurring, and the innovation and inventive spirit of 18th and 19th century designers is considered to be just as spectacular as that displayed by current artists," notes its gallerist Bill Pallot. Amongst the key pieces is a "Moorish" cabinet by Daniel Lovati featuring ivory inlays on ebony, opulent untreated pear wood embellishment, and flashes of silver-plated bronze, and a games table with pivoting top, attributed to the great English cabinetmaker George Bullock

Moving onto the 20th century, **Galerie Alain Marcelpoil** has dedicated its booth to André Sornay with a range of furniture using metal, lacquer, and wood, while **Galerie Marcilhac** is offering a striking commode in Amaranth wood with lapis-lazuli inlays by Marcel Coard, circa 1928-1929.

Paintings & Sculptures

“We’re seeing a big return of old masters with Sarti Gallery, Richard Green, Galerie de Jonckheere, Moretti Fine Art, and Marlborough Gallery. They will present a strong choice of Flemish and Italian masters,” remarks **Christian Deydier**, the former president of the Syndicat des Antiquaires, which organizes the Biennale, “and we will have Orientalism paintings with Galerie Ary Jan.”

From the 15th and 16th centuries, **Moretti Fine Art** offers Sainte Catherine d’Alexandrie, a tempera on wood piece by Venetian painter Antonio Vivarini, along with Saint Matthieu, an oil on canvas work by the Dutch master Matthias Stomer, while **Galerie de Jonckheere** is offering a couple of small portraits by Catharina van Hemessen, the daughter of the painter and dealer Jan van Hemessen (active in Antwerp between 1519 and 1556), along with a work by the portrait painter Lucas Cranach The Younger.

From amongst 18th century masters, **Galerie Florence de Voldere** is offering Festival of Monkeys by David Teniers The Younger, son-in-law of the Flemish master Jan Brueghel The Elder, a lively and colorful market scene that recalls Brueghel’s spirit, though here the humans have been replaced by monkeys.

Italian masters are well represented, too. With a stand designed by Bottega Veneta, **Robilant+Voena** is presenting a selection of Italian paintings that runs the gamut from the Baroque age with a portrait by Carlo Maratta to the Post-war years with two iconic works by Lucio Fontana that are classic examples of his spatial research with close sequences of slashes, alongside a major early work by Alberto Burri, Legno e rosso (1960).

Tornabuoni Art is also showcasing a commitment to Italian artists with works from the second half of the 20th century including a selection of emblematic works by Alighiero Boetti, Lucio Fontana, and Paolo Scheggi among others.

Modern painting remains the dominating force at the Biennale. **Galerie Tamenaga** has the pensive Femme au Turban (1919), by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, while **Stoppenbach & Delestre** is offering Raoul Dufy’s La Marne à Logent, Le-Perreux (1939).

Faithful to its specialization dedicated to works of artists of the Ecole de Paris of the 1950’s, **Applicat-Prazan** is offering several gems from the period including La table rose by Nicolas de Staël painted in 1953 and works by Pierre Soulages, Serge Poliakoff, and Lucio Fontana.

Contemporary art remains somewhat sparse at the Biennale but **Marlborough Gallery** is presenting a solo exhibition devoted to the most recent works of Spanish painter Juan Genovés, who has been looking at the concept of crowd versus the individual from an bird's eye view perspective, while the gallery **Dominique Levy** is offering several works by Pierre Soulage, a study for self-portrait by Francis Bacon, and a colorful 1962 abstraction by Kazuo Shiraga, and **Galerie Mitterrand** has several pieces by Les Lalannes, including Pomme des Londres by Claude Lalanne, and Gorille de Surete, II by Francois Xavier Lalanne.

<http://uk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1053186/sneak-peek-what-to-expect-at-the-biennale-des-antiquaires>