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ANTIQUES TRADE
gazette
THE ART MARKET WEEKLY

IACF acquire Ally Pally fair from Nelson

■ Management changes at current organisers create new opportunity for Keith Harris

Joan Porter reports

INTERNATIONAL Antiques and Collectors' Fairs (IACF) have taken over the Alexandra Palace antiques and collectors' fair from Nelson Events.

Nelson, who have run the Ally Pally fixture in north London since 2008, will hold their last outing there on May 11.

The move comes after Blair Barrows, son of Nelson's founder Peter Barrows, decided to return to full-time university studies. He is based in Edinburgh, while his father is based in Newmarket and director Paul Kelly in London.

"The reduction in our management team means that we are unable to give this fair the focus it requires to maintain its ongoing success," Peter Barrows told *ATG*. "This flagship fair for the trade couldn't have gone to a better company to whom I give every support. I believe that IACF are the only organisers who can realise its potential."

Keith Harris, chairman of IACF, expressed himself delighted to have "this jewel of London events" added to his company's portfolio – he had tried to buy the fair in 1994.

"We will ensure that the resources required to develop and grow Alexandra Palace will be put in place," he said.

These resources include the antiques and collectors' fairs rental at Ally Pally: "not much cheaper than hiring Olympia", said Mr Harris.

Lindy Berkman and Alan Kipping ran the antiques and collectors' fair at Ally Pally under the Pig and Whistle

continued on page 2

The £150,000 doorstop with an Imperial past

Above: the Asian art sale at **Sworders** on April 29 in Stansted Mountfitchet was led massive 9½in (24.5cm) high Chinese calligrapher's brush pot dating to the late 18th or century. The pot, being held here by Yexue Li, who works in Sworders' Asian art depar is made from a single block of zitan – the rare hardwood largely reserved for use in the Imperial household. It is intricately carved with dozens of figures in the popular 'hundr subject (detail inset **below**), a highly auspicious theme in Chinese art intended to insp creation of a large and joyous family. The piece, apparently used as a doorstop in a Hertfordshire cottage for over 40 years, was estimated at £20,000-30,000, but auctioneer and managing director Guy Schooling said it soon became clear that interest would see it exceed this sum. The vendor was present at the auction rooms (choosing to watch online from the office, rather than in the saleroom itself) to see it sell to a Chinese buyer in the room at £150,000. Mr Schooling described it as "a life-changing sum for the seller".

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international events

Dealers telling their stor

■ Left Bank galleries join forces to focus on a particular piece of stock with an interesting story

Anne Crane
reports

THE Carré Rive Gauche is a long-standing Parisian association of around 120 art and antiques dealers grouped in the 6th and 7th arrondissments in a network of roads bounded by the quai Voltaire and the rues de l'Université, du Bac and des Saints-Pères.

Members are known for mounting a series of group initiatives throughout the year to tempt visitors and enthusiasts to visit their Left Bank galleries.

The latest runs from May 15-18 and is titled *Un Objet Une Histoire* (each piece has a story). The idea is to focus attention on a particular piece in their stock which has an interesting history to serve as an entrée to discovering the entire gallery contents and as a means of highlighting the eclectism and wealth of specialist expertise across the whole area.

Several of the participants, such as the Galerie Chenel featured here, are also staging special themed exhibitions, some of which will run beyond the four-day 'discovery' period.

There is also a late-night, first day opening from 6-10pm.

For further information see www.carrerivegauche.com

A RENAISSANCE TREASURE

Left: Gabrielle Laroche's gallery on the rue de Lille is a treasure trove Renaissance and 17th century furniture and objects. One of the stars of is this Renaissance red walnut two-part cabinet from South-West France which stands 6ft (1.83m) high. Its real attraction lies in the elaborate wea carved decoration to both parts. This is emblematic of the four seasons, and summer to the upper part and autumn and winter to the lower, each accompanied by carved zodiacal signs. The carving is also rich in symboli mythological detail, with a series of animals such as a dog for faithfulness strength, wisdom and justice and a peacock for pride, as well as figures Mars, Mercury, Neptune, Venus and Athena. There is additional inlaid in mother-of pearl. This elaborate piece may well have been made to cele marriage. It has a price guide of €80,000.
www.gabrielle-laroche.com

MANY FACES OF ANTIQUITIES

Left: Galerie Chenel on the quai Voltaire will be using the occasion of *Un Object Une Histoire* to unveil its summer exhibition *Fusion*, which runs from May 15 to July 19. This is a broad-based celebration of the interplay of different elements in antiquities, be it the form of gods from Eastern cultures incorporated in those of the West, the visual fusion of humans and animals, or the transformation of sculptural material into vegetal form. The exhibits cover a wide variety of styles and prices (from €2000 up to six figures). This 2nd century AD marble is known as an *oscillum*, a disc or figure which was suspended from a building to appease the gods. This example features Medusa's head to one side and a satyr's to the other and its large size, 18½in (47cm) in height, means it must have been produced for a very wealthy household. It comes with a provenance to a Swiss private collection, acquired in the late 1970s and is priced at €185,000. Also among the pieces on show will be a Roman marble lion monopodium of the 2nd century AD that is noted for its well-connected later history. Acquired by James Christie (1773-1831) founder of the auction house for Charles Blundell (1761-1837) of Ince Blundell Hall in Lancashire, it was subsequently bequeathed to John Gladstone and was at Fasque House in Scotland.
www.galeriechenel.com

SCROLL WITH A

Left: Christina O
whose gallery is ho
former 18th centu
on the rue de Bea
selected a large an
preserved Chinese
presentation scrol
piece with a story
(1.25m) long scrol
cream silk is finely
with coloured silk a
thread embroidery
bordering a red te
of Sir John Pope He
was the 8th Gove
Kong from 1877, a
by Chong Won, a
silversmith and lu
goods dealer. The
in a lacquered box
above) decorated
shades of gold w
silk interior featu
scene. It is priced
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