

# Art Fairs INTERNATIONAL

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## Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair

March 24, 2008



Fast taking shape as London's premier art and antique event, Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair opens its doors on Thursday 5th June and runs until 15th June 2008. Set in the historic and elegant Victorian glass-domed building, the fair offers visitors an unparalleled range of objects from museum quality pieces to the fascinating and unusual. Now in its 35th year heritage, it is attracting some of the world's leading galleries and it is a privilege to be Fair Director of this prestigious event with its own heritage. Buyers are enormously reassured by the knowledge that every single piece within the fair is rigorously checked by a team of world experts. This so-called 'vetting' takes place before the fair opens with 250 specialists, a combination of dealers, museum curators and auctioneers, examining each exhibit for authenticity, quality, condition and period. It is a fascinating process and if I have the chance I try to spend an hour going around with one of the teams to get a closer look and really understand the quality of items on sale.

One of the things that make Olympia distinctive is the signature stands situated along the grand avenue. Exhibitors are given the opportunity to show their flair and creativity in producing a free build stand. Past examples have included chain mail, a Zen temple, a William Cavendish folly and a fuchsia pink backdrop to display Indian jewels. The waiting list for these continues to grow and this year visitors will be treated to yet more of these stunning creations to display works of art.

This summer there will be a little over 250 of the art and antiques world's best-known names at the event. They will be selling a vast array

of items from exquisite furniture to dazzling jewels. Fine furniture will be exhibited by Pelham Galleries of London and Paris, specialist suppliers to some of the world's major museums and private collections. One of France's leading furniture dealers, Phillipe Perrin, will exhibit for the first time bringing 18th century French furniture and works of art. Also new for 2008 is Antoine Chenevière, based in London and an international authority on Russian furniture. He will show furniture from the Golden Period (1780 to 1840) in addition to European pieces.

In 2008, Gordon Watson exhibits contemporary furniture and decorative items, particularly popular with the glamorous celebrities who frequent the Fair. Joining him will be Parisian gallery, Martin du Louvre, showing extraordinary works of exceptional quality ranging from primitive sculpture from the Valdivia culture to Picasso.

Some of the finest silver and gems can be found at the Fair. Jewelry always creates a stir and particularly on Peter Edwards' stand where he specializes in works made by the great 20th century designers including Paul Flato, Pierre Sterlé and Suzanne Belperron, many of which were made for the Hollywood stars of yesteryear such as Ginger Rogers and Judy Garland. **Epoque Fine Jewels are new exhibitors this year, currently one of the leading dealers in antique and period jewelry, visitors will find it hard not to be tempted by the exquisite signed pieces from the houses of Cartier, René Lalique, Fouquet, Van Cleef & Arpels, Tiffany and Boucheron.**

Specialist dealers will include Jacqueline Simcox with Chinese textiles from the 15th to the 18th centuries and Vandervén & Vandervén showing Oriental Art with fine Tang ceramics. Also exhibiting are Timothy Millett, one of the leading authorities on historical medals and for those who are always on the move; campaign and sporting antiques from Christopher Clarke and Manfred Schotten.

*Freya Simms, Director*

[www.olympiaartsinternational.com](http://www.olympiaartsinternational.com)

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1.



[cathy](#) on April 7, 2011 at 3:55 am

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