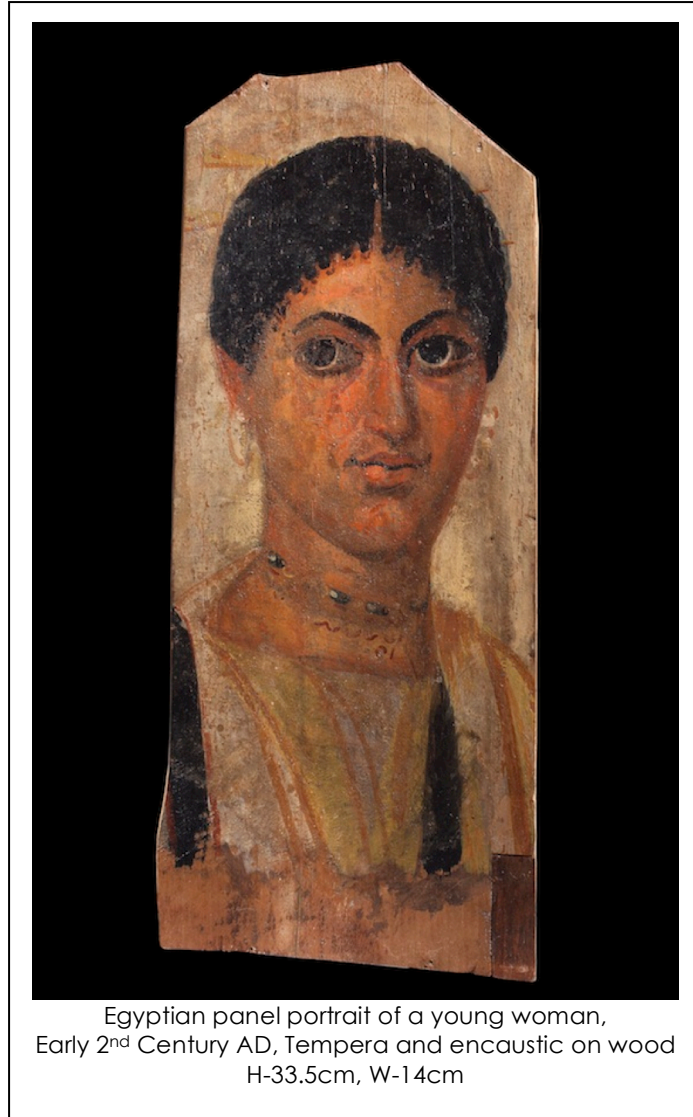


CHARLES EDE AT TEFAF MAASTRICHT

13 – 22 MARCH 2015

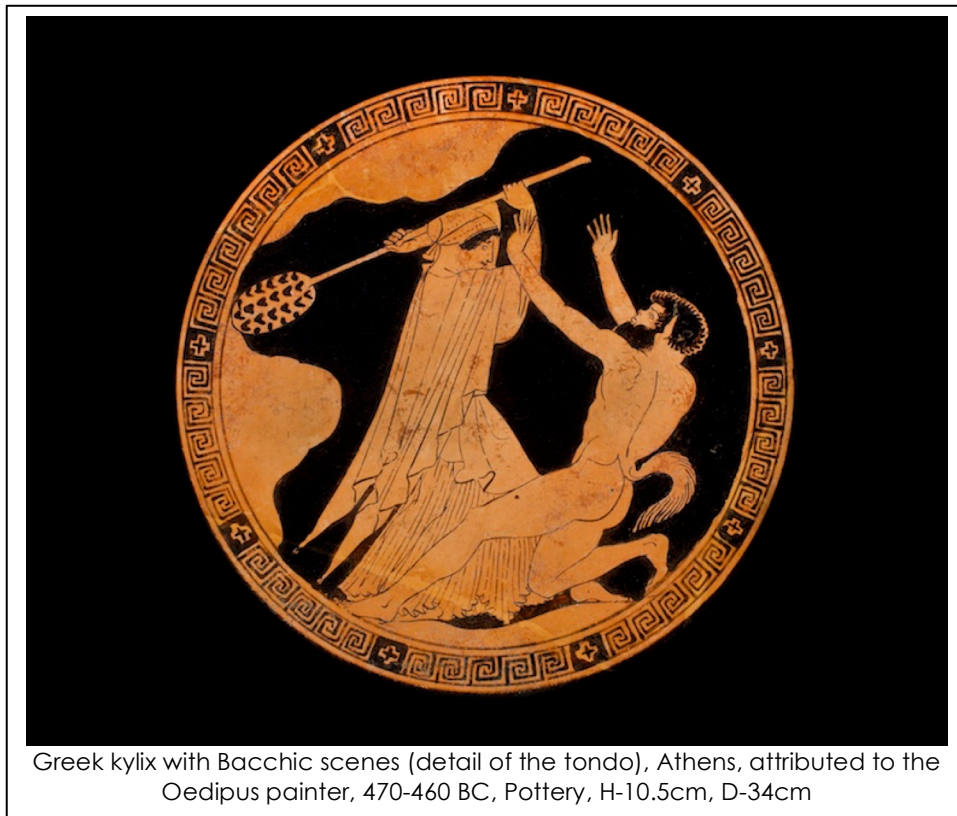


Charles Ede will show an impressive range of ancient masterpieces at The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), Maastricht including objects from Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire.

2015 inaugurates a new look and much larger stand for the gallery. Its focal point will be an exquisite Egyptian wood panel portrait of a young woman. Such early paintings are highly desired by collectors and museums and this work

comes with an impeccable provenance. Originating from er-Rubaiyat in the Fayum, south of Cairo, it was excavated in the late 19th century and formed part of the renowned collection of Theodor Graf (1840-1903), before being acquired in the late 1920s by the Viennese collector, Irene Heintschel-Heinegg. It was first published as part of the Graf collection in 1922, and then again by the noted scholar and academic Klaus Parlasca in 1969.

These portraits, painted from life, were unique to the Roman period in Egypt, combining the traditions of Egyptian mummification and Greek portraiture. After death the panel was used in the mummification process, covering the face and secured by fine bands of linen. They offer invaluable insights into Egyptian society, allowing us to determine not only the contemporary fashions in clothing and jewellery but also ethnicity and physical appearance. This is an exceptional example in excellent condition, possibly, by at least a thousand years, the oldest 'Old Master' portrait in the fair.



An important Greek red-figure kylix with Bacchic scenes leads a fine selection of Greek vessels, a speciality of the gallery. Recently featured in the exhibition

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Dionysos: Intoxication and Ecstasy at the Bucerius Kunst Forum Hamburg and Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, the finely potted drinking cup is decorated with three engaging scenes. In one, Dionysos, the god of wine, offers a kantharos to a satyr. Another vignette depicts four bearded cross-dressing figures wearing female garb, whilst the tondo has a striking scene of a maenad brandishing her thyrsus, repelling the advances of a cowering satyr. Running along the edge of the scene, in Greek, is the phrase 'The boy is beautiful'.

A magnificent Greek bronze helmet of Corinthian type dating from the early 6th century BC is startlingly sculptural. Its smooth dome contrasting with the dark, almond-shaped eyes feels strangely modern, transcending its military utility. It is beaten from a single sheet of bronze; the skilful manipulation of the metal can be seen in the decrease in thickness from the nose-piece round to the cheek. Pairs of holes in the crown indicate the attachment of a horsehair crest, signifying the owner as a 'General'.

An arresting Romano-Egyptian alabaster footed bowl of monumental form was exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum in 1941 and was sold from the well-known Brummer collection, at Sotheby's London in 1964. The bowl was made using a lathe and then polished to a smooth sheen with abrasives and water.



Romano-Egyptian footed bowl, 1st-3rd Century AD, Alabaster, H-18cm, D-37.5cm

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Another splendid vessel coming to TEFAF is a Phoenician 'torpedo' vase made from smoky-quartz with sheet gold covering its lip and duck-headed handles. It comes from the Pharoan collection, Beirut, c.1930 and it is sold with an original invoice from Ur Nina Antiques from 1969. Other figurative objects include a starkly simple Anatolian head from a Kylia idol, a superb Egyptian green faience ushabti dating to the 30th Dynasty, c.380-350BC, for the sealbearer Hor-oudja, born of Iset-en-mehit, and an Egyptian sandstone head of a woman from the 18th Dynasty.

A catalogue will be produced especially for the fair, illustrating many of the artworks that Charles Ede will exhibit at TEFAF.

For further information and images:

Hermione Wace
Cawdell Douglas
10-11 Lower John Street
London
W1F 9EB
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7439 2822
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7287 5488
E-mail: press@cawdelldouglas.com
Website: www.cawdelldouglas.com

Notes to Editors:

Charles Ede Ltd
1 Three Kings' Yard
London
W1K 4JP
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7493 4944
Email: info@charlesede.com
Website: www.charlesede.com

TEFAF Maastricht
Maastricht Exhibition & Congress Centre (MECC)
Forum 100
6229 GV Maastricht,
Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 43 38 38 383
Website: www.tefaf.com