

Studiolo offers ‘the best of a fair in a single day’ as it launches in London

A new one-day multi-dealer venture opens in central London this week.



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Studiolo, a condensed, high-level fair held in Spencer House, St James's Square, has its inaugural run this Thursday, hosting around 13 top-level names in the art and antiques trade.

Exhibitors include Agnews, Charles Ede, Maak Ceramics, Stuart Lochhead Sculpture, Stephen Ongpin Fine Art, Charles Ede and Ward Moretti. Each will exhibit just two works against the magnificent Georgian interior – its is a show without traditional stands – and the space will be further enhanced by the shows partner Sibyl Colefax and John Fowler, the interior design firm.

The event was founded by Sebastien Paraskevas and Alesa Boyle, who last year launched *Trois Crayons*, a London-based champion of all things drawing, which hosts its second commercial showcase *Tracing Time* at No 9 Cork Street this summer. The pair plan to make Studiolo a regular part of the annual calendar too.

They told ATG: “We saw a gap in the market for a new venture that brought a different element to the art calendar. Running against the grain of the standard multi-day art fair, Studiolo’s one day event offers a more bespoke and curated offering that brings together dealers and clients for a one day event.”

The format of the show, they added, gives dealers a chance to “engage with audiences in new ways and enjoy the best elements of a traditional fair in a single day”.

Studiolo takes its name from the Italian word for a room dedicated to the display and contemplation of fine works specifically in Renaissance palaces. Going forward, it could take in other grand locations. Paraskevas and Boyle say that the concept behind the venture is “to provide established dealers with new and unique spaces to engage with fresh audiences”.

Highlights at the inaugural edition include two paintings, one by Fragonard and one by Anne Vallayer-Coster from Wildenstein & Co; two 17th century Dutch panel portraits of boys holding Kolf clubs and balls from Weiss Gallery and a selection of portrait miniatures from The Limner Company including one depicting King Charles II in an original gold locket by David des Granges (1651)