

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LONDON ART WEEK

Ready to share their expertise

Ben and Rachel Elwes of Ben Elwes Fine Art say the chance to share their passion and knowledge of art is what makes London Art Week special

Husband-and-wife team Ben and Rachel Elwes established Ben Elwes Fine Art in 2004. Ben had worked in the international fine art market for more than 20 years, having started dealing at university, before joining Christie's in 1987. Rachel's background is in academia and museums in the US, where she was a curator at Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh.

Tucked away on the first floor of an elegant 1890s building in Maddox Street, Mayfair, Ben Elwes Fine Art is exactly the kind of hidden gem waiting to be discovered by visitors to London Art Week.

Q Can you remember how you first fell in love with art?

Ben As a young teenager the work that really wowed me was Veronese's gigantic 1563 painting *The Wedding at Cana* in the Louvre. It's over 30 feet long. I remember being totally captivated by this outrageous, beautiful and complicated thing. It was certainly a Damascene moment for me. **Rachel** Growing up in Philadelphia, I would regularly go to the Philadelphia Museum and the Barnes Foundation. I remember doing an internship at Nantucket Historical Associates and I was completely bitten by the bug of working directly with objects and works of art. I understood that they could be used as keys to interpreting the past, and I simply loved handling these objects and studying them up close.

Q Why do you think that art galleries can sometimes intimidate people?

Rachel I think it's to do with the speed of contemporary society. People are not really accustomed to getting to know a supplier and getting to know an object, and really enjoying that whole process. So much is now done on screens – that can be quite isolating. It's very different to the life-affirming process of learning about things before even thinking about acquiring them. **Ben** It's also to do with knowledge. I can totally understand that it might be intimidating to walk into an art gallery filled with pictures about which you know little. It takes time to learn. That's the great thing for us about

London Art Week. We don't put our heads above the parapet very often – we don't do art fairs, for example. So it's really nice to meet new people here in the gallery.

Q What is it like running a business together as husband and wife?

Rachel We work together on everything – in fact, we probably only spend about three hours of each day apart! But we never get bored of each other because we always have something to talk about, and that something is our major shared interest in art. It's a very fulfilling way to exist.

Q How would you describe your gallery?

Rachel We've been here since the two of us joined forces in 2004. It was previously occupied by a milliner to the Queen and the Queen Mother, so when we arrived it was full of ostrich feathers and things... **Ben** It was the campiest room in London! **Rachel** Now it's very fresh and natural, with pale blue walls and pale wood floors. There is a big neo-baroque window, which means the beautiful northern light pours in. It's a really lovely space to be in.

Q What can visitors to the gallery expect to see in the gallery during London Art Week?

Ben We have a varied mix of paintings, drawings, and sculpture, from the 15th century to the mid-20th century. That's typical of us – we don't specialise in one particular area. For London Art Week, we'll be showing an eight-foot-tall art deco maquette by Alfred Janniot, made in preparation for his famous commission at the Rockefeller Centre in New York. We also have a major work by Delacroix. It's a presentation sketch of his monumental painting, *Entry of the Crusaders in Constantinople*, which is in the Louvre. It's not a compositional sketch, but a completed drawing that Delacroix sent to his patron King Louis-Philippe in 1838 in order to show him what he was paying for. **Rachel** They'll also get to meet Wilson, our new Jack Russell terrier. He'll be here with us.

Discover the world's

London Art Week is a chance to get up close and personal with art in the finest private galleries, says **Tom Jeffreys**

A feast is in store for art lovers this summer. This July, 46 central London art galleries as well as three major auction houses join forces for London Art Week – a celebration of some five millennia of art and culture.

On show are all manner of beautiful objects: from the simplicity of a Phoenician axe-head dating to the third millennium BC right up to the pioneering 20th-century artists – names such as Degas, Picasso and Henry Moore.

London Art Week takes place

on 1-8 July across Mayfair and St James's, one of London's most enchanting areas and a major centre of the art world – for artists, collectors, art connoisseurs and dealers – for well over 250 years.

In fact, the West End of London is home to one of the oldest commercial galleries in the world: Colnaghi, which was established by an Italian firework manufacturer back in 1760.

Today, the area is highly regarded for the expertise of its dealers and the quality of the works of art on show. But despite this prestige and history, not everybody knows about it. This is where London Art Week comes in.

One of the major aims of the event's organisers is to encourage visitors who might not normally venture inside the prestigious art galleries of central London.

"To go into galleries can sometimes

feel intimidating," Crispian Riley-Smith, director of Crispian Riley-Smith Fine Arts and one of the founders of London Art Week, acknowledges. "But dealers are only too keen to meet new people and talk about art – which, for all of us working here, is a life-long passion."

For London Art Week, Riley-Smith is exhibiting a diverse selection of work that includes Dutch drawings and Italian landscapes. A particular highlight is a triptych of delicate drawings in pen and ink by the 16th-century Flemish artist Hans Bol.

London Art Week was conceived by art dealers such as Riley-Smith and it is still run by them too. The event is a collaborative partnership between the galleries and auction houses of Mayfair and St James's.

Its launch in 2013 brought together two older initiatives – Master

Your private view
Paintings by Sir Thomas Lawrence and Michele Tosini at Moretti Fine Art

most intimate art fair

66 Dealers are keen to meet people and talk about art

Crispian Riley-Smith

Drawings and Sculpture Week (established in 2001) and Master Paintings Week (2009). By uniting in this way, London Art Week showcases the tremendous breadth of the area's art scene and provides a mouth-watering array of attractions for art-loving visitors, serious collectors and buyers.

Many galleries organise displays and exhibitions especially for London Art Week. But the event is not just about London: dealers come from as far afield as France, Italy, Spain and the US to showcase their wares.

In 2015, representatives came from more than 50 international museums as well as visitors from all over the world. Sales – to both private clients and international institutions – topped the £1 million mark.

This year there are newcomers such as Lullo, Pampoulides and Kallos

Gallery exhibiting alongside stalwarts such as Johnny Van Haften, Richard Green and Agnew's. In Cork Street, Lullo, Pampoulides has timed its launch to coincide with London Art Week, and is opening its doors in style with Classicism Reimagined: Master Paintings and Sculpture 1700-c1950.

One of the most exciting parts of London Art Week is the opportunity to meet the experts face-to-face. Art dealers "play a major role as mediators to make great art accessible to all", says Dr Xavier Bray, of Dulwich Picture Gallery. Few things bring works of art alive more than speaking to those who know and love them.

Many of the galleries are major global names with prominent street-facing spaces. But others are dealers unknown to those outside the field.

Some operate from upstairs showrooms hidden away behind

Mayfair and St James's grand façades. Here you can see amazing works of art and talk to the experts in intimate surroundings. It is a very different experience to viewing such works in a major museum or even at an art fair. Wandering from gallery to gallery is an opportunity not only to see great works of art but to experience this beautiful area of the capital.

The event is sponsored by the Crown Estate, which owns nearly 50 per cent of St James's and is currently implementing a major £500 million investment programme to develop the area and increase the number of galleries. "Art is integral to St James's," says Anthea Harries, portfolio manager St James's London, the Crown Estate. "Through sensitive regeneration we will be able to offer more galleries the chance to move into the area."

PLAN YOUR VISIT

When, what and where – all the information you need for timings and tours



In the frame Make sure you get the most out of your visit

OPENING TIMES

London Art Week takes place across 46 galleries and three major auction houses on 1-8 July.

GALLERY OPENING TIMES

Previews: Thursday 30 June, 3pm–8pm

Friday 1 July to Friday 8 July, 10am–6pm

Weekend opening times: 12pm–5pm

AUCTION HOUSE OPENING TIMES

Saturday 2 July: 12pm–5pm (Sotheby's and Bonhams only)

Sunday 3 July: 11am–5pm

Monday 4 July to Friday 8 July: 9am–5pm

For more information and a complete list of participating galleries and auction houses, visit the London Art Week website at londonartweek.co.uk

TOURS

For 2016 London Art Week is partnering with Art History UK, a boutique cultural tours company founded by art expert Rose Balston in 2009 and specialising in the history of art and architecture in London.

There will be 10 tours taking place across the week, each offering something a little out

WHO'S AFRAID OF OLD MASTER ART?

really be found for less than the price of a laptop? This tour shows novice collectors what to look out for and where, and which treasures can be bought for hundreds – not thousands – of pounds. **♦ Tickets cost £30**

ANTIQUE REVITALISED

Expert guides bring to life the ancient masterpieces of the British Museum. After lunch, take in the antiques specialists of London Art Week who discuss how to find, value and preserve antiques. **♦ Tickets cost £50**

A JAUNT IN ST JAMES'S

An evening tour of the historic treasures of one of London's most charming areas, followed by a summer party hosted by the St James's Conservation Trust. **♦ Tickets cost £50**

PROVENANCE: JOURNEY TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Friday 1 July: 6.30pm–8pm

Explore the fascinating relationship between the Mayfair and St James's art trade and London's major public museums, as well as why provenance is so important. **♦ Tickets cost £30**

HOW TO START AN OLD MASTER COLLECTION

Saturday 2 July: 2.30pm–4.30pm

Can Old Master drawings

FINE ART PICKS

By Tom Jeffreys

With 46 specialist art galleries and three major auction houses taking part in London Art Week, it is no surprise that a truly diverse range of artworks are on show for visitors to marvel at. The twin arts of painting and drawing have long been at the heart of Western visual culture, and both are very strongly represented in all their myriad forms. From classical French landscapes to rococo mythology, from familiar biblical scenes to the strange visions of 20th-century modernism; across Mayfair and St James's, London Art Week celebrates the full wealth of art history that the capital has to offer.

VANITAS AND MEMENTO MORI AT AGNEW'S

Thomas Agnew launched his business in Manchester in 1817, and opened a London gallery in 1860. Since then, Agnew's has become one of the most recognised art dealers in the capital, with a particular reputation for Old Master paintings. For London Art Week, the historic gallery is hosting a special exhibition that is entitled Vanitas and Memento



JACOPO AMIGONI, JUPITER AND CALLISTO AT MAURIZIO NOBILE

It was back in 1987 that Maurizio Nobile launched his career as a dealer of art and antiquities, and he now has galleries in both Bologna and Paris. For London Art Week he is coming to St James's with a wealth of magnificent Italian paintings and drawings in tow. Look out especially for an enchanting interpretation of the Jupiter and Callisto myth by Italian rococo painter Jacopo Amigoni. **♦ Exhibiting at 31 Bury Street SW1Y 6AU maurizioabile.com**



CORNELIUS JOHNSON AT THE WEISS GALLERY

Mark Weiss, a leading specialist in Tudor, Stuart and northern European portraiture, will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of his first London gallery with a special exhibition, Cornelius Johnson: Painter to King & Country, from 30 June to 15 July. It is the first ever large-scale show dedicated to Johnson, who was court painter to Charles I. **♦ See website for details: bonhams.com, christies.com, sothebys.com**



basis of this exhibition at Martyn Gregory, a specialist in drawings and watercolours. Traveller-Artists in the Far East is a selection of works on paper by European artists who travelled to China, India and the Far East between the 18th and early 20th centuries. On show are landscapes, specially commissioned portraits and scenes of everyday life by the likes of William Alexander and George Chinnery. **♦ 24 Bury Street SW1Y 6AU martyngregory.com**

OLD MASTERS EVENING AUCTIONS

Auctions are not just for dealers and collectors. During London Art Week there are sales by central London auctioneers Christie's, Sotheby's and Bonhams, and you can visit them beforehand to browse and see what's on offer. On offer this year are still-lives, landscapes and portraits by some of the greatest names in art history, such as Jan Brueghel the Elder, Peter Paul Rubens, Claude-Elie Vernet and Jean-Elie Liotard. **♦ See website for details: bonhams.com, christies.com, sothebys.com**

SCULPTURE PICKS

Perhaps it is just coincidence or maybe indicative of a larger trend, but a number of galleries have chosen to focus on the ancient arts of the Greeks and Romans and their subsequent influence on European sculptors. From marble busts and friezes to terracotta models, this is great news for those with a love of classical form and beauty. It also demonstrates that in-depth, informative and beautiful exhibitions are not the preserve of museums alone.

ANTIQUE INSPIRATION AT TOMASSO BROTHERS FINE ART

Another exploration of the influence of the ancients on the sculpture of the 16th and 19th centuries. Marble friezes and bronze busts feature especially strongly in this exhibition at Tomasso Brothers Fine Art, with Pietro Cipriani's *Dancing Faun* an especially fine example of bronze patination. European Renaissance bronze is a particular speciality for Dino and Raffaello Tomasso who launched their company in 1993 and opened their gallery in Duke Street in 2013. **♦ 12 Duke Street SW1Y 6BN tomassobrothers.co.uk**

FROM WAX TO BRONZE AT TRINITY FINE ART

Trinity Fine Art hosts a celebration of sculpture's diverse materials, from wax and marble to bronze and porcelain. An undoubted highlight is the terracotta sculpture of the god Bacchus, slumped and accidentally pouring wine into his own lap. The work has been attributed to a 16th-century Florentine sculptor known

EARLY EUROPEAN SCULPTURE AT ARCADIA CERRI

Arcadia Cerri established her eponymous dealership in 2013, after 10 years as the Western art specialist at nearby Sam Fogg. Cerri now focuses on medieval art, which she believes "has inherent cultural and historical value underlying the artistic value". For London Art Week 2016 she is taking up residence at Robin Katz Fine Art with an exhibition of early European sculpture. Expect exquisite works of simple beauty such as a 13th-century head of a man frowning, made in France from fossiliferous limestone. **♦ 16 Hill Street W1J 5NF arcadiacerri.com**

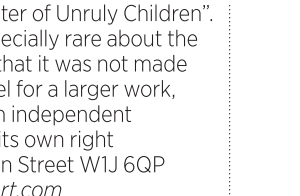


OF GODS AND MEN AT DANIEL KATZ

A fascinating insight into the working practice of a 17th-century sculptor is on show in Mayfair at Daniel Katz's gallery. Christophe Veyrier's *Silenus* (the "Faune") is the terracotta modello for the artist's large stone statue, now in the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Marseille. On the surface of the terracotta are the ink markings from the pointing machine, a device that enabled the artist to produce a finished sculpture that was identical to the model. **♦ 6 Hill Street W1J 5NF katz.co.uk**

VINCENZO PACETTI, THE HOPE ROMA AT LOWELL LISBON

Lowell Lisbon is a leading authority on British art of the 18th and early 19th centuries. For London Art Week 2016, his gallery is showing some extremely fine British works, including a JMW Turner sketch of the River Washburn in Yorkshire and a rare double-sided study of Dedham Vale by none other than John Constable. Stealing this particular show, however, is the Italian sculptor Vincenzo Pacetti's beautiful white marble bust of Roma, which was commissioned for the prominent Dutch and English 18th-century art collector Thomas Hope, who was the one-time owner of the celebrated Hope Diamond and Hope Pearl. **♦ 13 Clifford Street W1S 2LF lowell-lisbon.com**



DEITIES AND DAILY LIFE AT CHARLES EDE

Sculpture and artefacts spanning 3,000 years of Mediterranean culture will go on show at Charles Ede for London Art Week. They include a finely carved and painted Egyptian sarcophagus mask, a *Herakles* on a Greek Attic black-figure amphora from the 6th century BC and a 1st or 2nd-century

FLINT MARBLE BRONZE AT OLIVER FORGE AND BRENDAN LYNCH

Founded in 1998, and with galleries in London and New York, Oliver Forge and Brendan Lynch specialises in antiquities and Islamic and Indian art. It has chosen to focus on sculpture for London Art Week and there are works on show made from flint, marble and bronze. Look out for a Roman marble relief that was last seen in public exactly 70 years ago, on show just a short walk away at Burlington House. **♦ 2 Georgian House 10 Bury Street W1W 6AA forgelynch.com**

HORSES, RULERS AND VICTORY AT KALLOS GALLERY

Named after the ancient Greek for "beauty", Kallos Gallery specialises in the artworks of classical Greece. The focus for London Art Week is the role of coins as a means of disseminating and consolidating power in the ancient world. Especially exciting is the presence of a beautiful gold drachm minted under Agathocles, the famously ruthless tyrant of Syracuse (in modern-day Sicily). **♦ 14-16 Davies Street W1K 3DR kallosgallery.com**

ART AND ADORNMENT: TREASURES OF COMBAT AT ARIADNE GALLERIES

With spaces in New York and London, Ariadne Galleries focuses on the highest-quality Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Eurasian and Byzantine art. Those in search of something a little bit different should visit Art and Adornment, its presentation of exquisitely decorative ancient arms and armaments. A trio of bronze pieces are among the highlights: a medieval axe head, an Etruscan suit of armour, and a Greek, Samno-Attic helmet, complete with wings. **♦ 17 Three Kings' Yard W1K 4JP ariadnegalleries.com**

AD ROMAN MARBLE VENUS

This is a diverse display full of striking and rare pieces, and reveals the central role played by the gods in the everyday life of the ancient kingdoms. **♦ 17 Three Kings' Yard W1K 4JP charlesede.com**

For more information and a complete list of participating galleries and auction houses, please visit the London Art Week website: **londonartweek.co.uk**

LONDON ART 2016 WEEK
1-8 JULY