



David Moss

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The shifting landscape of the Palm Beach fairs scene

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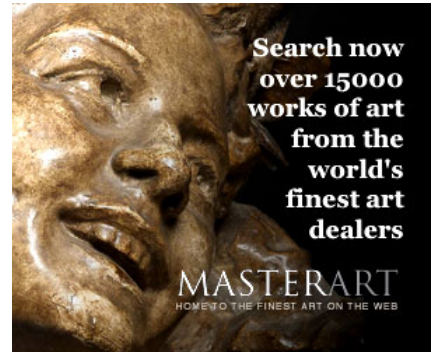
WHILE famously Miami has developed a vibrant international contemporary art scene, Florida is not generally a state one associates with culture and the art trade.

And certainly one would not have thought of sleepy Palm Beach, for over a century the home (or second or third home) of the often retired super-rich, as an art world destination.

But that has changed in the past couple of decades and in February more than 200 international dealers converge on Palm Beach for two fairs, both at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

First up is veteran Florida showman David Lester's American International Fine Art Fair, now in its 17th year. Open to the public from February 6 to 10, this is the event that first brought Palm Beach to the attention of the international art market and in its glory days it was one of the great fairs of the world with a stellar list of international exhibitors.

The launch of this event is a credit to the flair and foresight of Mr Lester, but in recent years it has lost ground and although it still hosts some very



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January 2013

Thrilling Islington art fair celebrates a quarter century



JANUARY is a relatively quiet month in London but there is one notable exception. The London Art Fair which traditionally kick starts the UK art year with a phenomenally successful and buzzing even...

Asian art as at home in a Mayfair townhouse as an industrial space in Hong Kong



AS if Rossi & Rossi were not busy enough with their Mayfair shows and international fairs, I have just learned that Fabio Rossi is opening a new gallery in Hong Kong in partnership with the noted...

Putting on the glitz in deepest Battersea



IF you fancy a relaxed, chic and friendly fair to banish the winter blues then straight after the London Art Fair I suggest another event with a personality all of its own just off the beaten trac...

top names like Richard Green, Peter Finer and Mallett, it is not the top show in town.

This mantle seems to have passed to The Palm Beach Jewellery, Art and Antique Show which runs at the convention centre over President's Weekend from February 15 to 19.

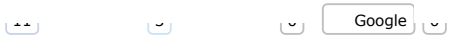
Last year the Lester fair had 68 exhibitors, in early January when I spoke to Scott Diament, President of the Palm Beach Show Group, who launched this fair 10 years ago, he had 170 exhibitors signed up with all space sold and a waiting list of 50.

This year top London gallery Whitford Fine Art, for years a regular at the Lester fair, opted for the rival fair and they are the latest in a long line of exhibitors to make the move.

A number of the Lester regulars are staying in Palm Beach for the second fair, among them Michael Goedhuis and St. James's arms and armour specialist Peter Finer, who will offer this splendid c.1590 North Italian Milanese half-armour at his debut.

Scott, 41, said: "This has been a breakthrough year and we could have kept selling, we even sold a part of the restaurant. But I put the money back into the fair".

The Palm Beach Show Group has won out over promotion and with so many exhibitors crossing over and voting with their feet it looks like even in staid Palm Beach the old order is now rapidly changing.



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A contemporary focus on the most ancient Tibetan traditions

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English china takes the floor in a Bohemian ballroom

Roman mosaic mask takes centre stage on antiquities stand

Rare Gothic chair illuminates winter in New York

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NOW Europe's longest-running fair, The Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair (BRAFA) is the first major international event of the year and it will be staged for the 58th year in the Belgian capital ...

A contemporary focus on the most ancient Tibetan traditions



WITH their distinctive blending of Classical and contemporary Asian, particularly Himalayan art Rossi & Rossi have been leading London dealers for years. With her classical background Anna Mar...

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LAUNCHED in 2000 by California-based specialist fairs organisers Caskey Lees, the first event up in Manhattan's Winter Antiques

Week is still the favourite of many collectors, The New York Ceramic...

Roman mosaic mask takes centre stage on antiquities stand



A criticism of the Winter Antiques Show, admittedly often by non-Americans, is that it has too much Americana. However, it has always been strong on this peculiarly folksy field and judging by the ...

Rare Gothic chair illuminates winter in New York



LAST month I mentioned that in late January much international attention in the art world will be focused on New York and especially the month's pivotal event in that city, the 59th Winter Antique...

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