

# ANTIQUES TRADE gazette

THE ART MARKET WEEKLY

koopman rare art



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## A rare white bird worth waiting for



Having postponed the sale in November and again in January, Chorley's finally got to sell an exceptional private collection of early English porcelain in Prinknash Abbey, Gloucestershire, on March 24.

The 18 pieces, chosen by the vendor's late husband for rarity, early dates and condition, had been acquired in London between 1984-93, predominantly through the dealership Albert Amor.

Foremost was a Chelsea owl from the Triangle-Raised Anchor period c.1745-49.

This 8in (20.5cm) high model, long admired for its remarkable ornithological accuracy, is thought to be based on the plate of *The Great Hawk or Horned Owl* that appears in George Edwards' *A Natural History of Uncommon Birds, and of Some Other Rare and Undescribed Animals* published between 1743-51.

Related models of owls on rocky bases are also found in Staffordshire saltglaze stoneware and in porcelain at Bow.

A number of these have appeared at auction in

Two views of the Chelsea owl from the Triangle-Raised Anchor period c.1745-49 – £40,000 at Chorley's.

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Pick of the week

## Masterpiece cancelled but Petworth fair takes June slot

by Laura Chesters

**Masterpiece London has cancelled the physical edition of its 2021 event because of coronavirus restrictions – but the Petworth fair will go ahead this summer.**

The next *Masterpiece* has been rescheduled to run from June 22, 2022, with the management now planning online alternatives and small live events for 2021 should restrictions allow them.

Lucie Kitchener, managing director of the fair, and Philip Hewat-Jaboor, chairman, said: "We had hoped that it would be possible to come together with our exhibitors, patrons and visitors for the fair this June. However, the continually evolving impact of the pandemic has meant we are focusing our efforts on online and a series of smaller-scale live events this summer."

It will announce details in due course.

Meanwhile, organiser The Antiques Dealers Fair Limited (ADFL) has successfully negotiated with the National Trust to find new dates for *The Petworth Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair* this summer after coronavirus restrictions forced the event to reschedule.

The fair had been planned for May but will now take place on June 18-20 after the National Trust granted a licence to go ahead. Dealers have signed up and tickets are now on sale.

The fair was one of the few that could take place last year as it is held outside in a purpose-built marquee in the National Trust's Petworth House in West Sussex.

www.thedaaf.com The Online Dutch Art & Antiques Fair

The online fair by members of the Royal Dutch Association of Art and Antiques Dealers

ONLINE ONLY

Opening Friday 9 April 14:00 hrs CET  
Closing Sunday 11 April 21:00 hrs CET

Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) administers the Treasure report (released on March 22, 2020, with 2018 data), which is usually a couple of years backdated due to the length of time that Treasure takes to be administered.

To coincide with the Treasure report released last week, the British Museum also announced recent Treasure finds of significance. These objects, which finders have a legal obligation to report, will now go through the Treasure process – among them is the silver-gilt ‘snailman’ mount (pictured) which Wakefield Museum hopes to acquire.



**Above:** ‘snailman’ from 1200-1350 found in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, last year.

The items, including coins, pendants, brooches, statues and spearheads, were hidden inside a trailer driven by Dimitar Dimitrov and found by police on October 27 last year.

The 41-year-old, from Pazardzhik in Bulgaria, pleaded guilty to transferring criminal property. The investigation involved Kent Police with assistance from the Metropolitan Police Service’s specialist Art and Antiquities Unit and the Bulgarian authorities.

## Lorry driver jailed over antiquities

A Bulgarian man has been jailed for two years after antiquities estimated to be worth more than £76,000 were found in his lorry by Border Force in Dover, Kent.

## Dylan Thomas two months before his death

The Welsh Sale at Rogers Jones in Cardiff on April 17 includes a portrait of Dylan Thomas painted just two months before he died,

Canadian artist Gordon Stuart (1924-2015), who was based in Swansea, made three portraits of Thomas across three afternoon sittings near the poet’s home in Laugharne in September 1953.

Stuart recalled that Thomas “...was a good subject and very kindly towards me and told me he was looking forward to going to America”. After each sitting, Thomas would head straight for Brown’s Hotel in the village.

On the poet’s fourth US tour, Thomas suffered a severe chest infection and bouts of heavy drinking left him in a coma. He died on November 9, 1953, at the age of just 39.

One of the three pictures is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, another in the University of Texas, with this one titled *Portrait of Dylan* kept by the artist and then by his widow.

It has been entered for auction by the Gordon Stuart estate.

The painting was exhibited at the National Eisteddfod in 1954 and again in Swansea during the 2004 Dylan Thomas centenary celebrations.

The estimate is £10,000-15,000.

➔ [rogersjones.co.uk](http://rogersjones.co.uk)



**Left:** portrait of Dylan Thomas by Gordon Stuart – estimate £10,000-15,000.



## Most read

The most viewed stories for week March 18-24 on [antiquetrade gazette.com](http://antiquetrade gazette.com)

- 1 **\$35 yard sale find stars in Asia Week New York**
- 2 **Gold ring fitting for a de Vere**
- 3 **Museums buy more Treasure finds as metal-detecting discoveries soar**
- 4 **Silver Vaults to remain but Koopman plans Mayfair move**
- 5 **Plea to help track down stolen Daniel Quare pocket watch**



## In Numbers

€2.75m

The difference in price between the two times Vincent van Gogh’s (1853-90) *Scène de rue à Montmartre* was offered at Sotheby’s Paris in less than an hour on March 25. It was initially knocked down at €14m to an online bidder but it was announced shortly after that, due to a ‘bidding error’, it would be reoffered at the end of sale. Second time round, it made €11.25m (£9.7m) on the phone.



# Bid Barometer

Online buying: realised prices at auctions on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com)

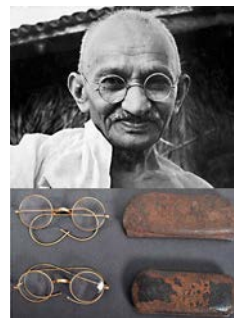
## TOP SELLING LOTS

### East Bristol Auctions, March 18

Two pairs of 1940s gold plated circular rimmed spectacles, by repute owned and worn by Mahatma Gandhi.

Estimate: £50,000-80,000

Hammer: £55,000



### Charterfields, London, March 24

A single-page job application from 1973 signed by Steve Jobs three years before he founded Apple in 1976.

Estimate: n/a

Hammer: £162,000

### Dominic Winter, South Cerney, March 24

Four 19th century Chinese circular porcelain panels, polychrome painted with immortals in a cloudy sky, each 11in (27cm) diameter, one cracked, with provenance to Abel William Bahr (1877-1959).

Estimate: £1000-1500

Hammer: £60,000



## HIGHEST MULTIPLE OVER TOP ESTIMATE

### Stephan Welz, Johannesburg, March 23

An 18th or 19th century Continental school portrait of a man, pastel and chalk on paper, 16 x 10in (39 x 26cm).

Estimate: Zar2000-3000

Hammer: Zar650,000 (£30,875)



### Hotlotz, Singapore, March 21

Yellow ground and green ‘dragon and phoenix’ bowl with Kangxi six-character mark, 5in (12cm) diameter, purchased in Hong Kong in the 1980s.

Estimate: Sin\$500-800

Hammer: Sin\$60,000 (£32,335)



### Criterion Auctions, London, March 19

Three Egyptian glazed faience ushabti along with a Roman clay oil lamp, the tallest 4in (11cm).

Estimate: £70-100

Hammer: £3800



Source: Bid Barometer is a snapshot of sales on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com) for March 18-24, 2021. ‘Highest multiple over top estimate’ = Our selection of items from the top 20 highest hammer prices as a multiple of the high estimate paid by internet bidders on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com). ‘Top selling lots’ = Our selection of items from the top 20 highest hammer prices paid by internet bidders on [thesaleroom.com](http://thesaleroom.com)