

**PASSION, POWER AND POLITICS**

**London Art Week Summer 2018 Reveals 5,000 Years of Historic and Remarkable Works of Art**

**Visit a Host of Selling Exhibitions, Auctions and Events in Mayfair and St. James's**

**Friday 29 June to Friday 6 July 2018**

**Opening Night: Thursday 28 June**

London Art Week illustrates the extraordinary range and quality of art dating from antiquity to the 20th century available on the market and strongly underlines the unrivalled connoisseurship and expertise to be found in the city. Each summer, London Art Week provides a platform for more than 40 leading international art dealers to present exciting selling exhibitions, engaging events and art talks, at private galleries in Mayfair and St. James's. The exhibitions coincide with the Old Master paintings and drawings sales at the major auction houses, and attract countless collectors, connoisseurs and museum curators to the capital. Discover passion, power and politics through the lens of historic works of art.



L to R: *Venice - The Doge's Palace and the Riva degli Schiavoni, looking East*, Frans Vervloet (1795-1872), oil on paper laid on canvas, 30 x 42 cm, **Charles Beddington Ltd**; fashion designer *Jacques Fath*, Serge Ivanoff (1893-1983), oil on canvas, 130 x 89 cm, **Bagshawe Fine Art**; *An Allegory of Air and Fire*, Jan II Brueghel (1601 -1678) & Frans II Francken (1581-1642), oil on oak panel, 53 x 74 cm, **Galerie Lowet de Wotrenge**.

The range of art to be featured during LAW is broad and includes Classical antiquities, Medieval and Renaissance textiles, master paintings and drawings from the Elizabethan and Baroque to Neoclassical and Post-Impressionist eras, watercolours from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, master sculptures in bronze, marble and terracotta, and modern art works up to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Special subjects span portraiture, fashion, Symbolism and Futurism, as well as several centuries of British, French, Flemish and Italian art.



L to R: *A Saracen's Head*, white marble, probably Florence, circa 1500-1520, 47 x 33 cm, **Gallery Desmet**; *The Young Catechist*, Henry Hoppner Meyer (1780-1847), oil on canvas, 91 x 71 cm, **Ben Elwes Fine Art**; *Interior of the Church of the Madonna della Salute, Venice*, **Emilio Vedova** (1919 – 2006), ink and wash on paper, 251 x 232 mm, **Romano Fine Art**.

Highlights and major works being offered for sale include:

- an important Abolitionist work by **Henry Hoppner Meyer** (1780-1847) exhibited at the Society of British Artists in 1827 accompanied by a poem, *The Young Catechist*, by Charles Lamb. A portrait of Lamb by Meyer was exhibited at the RBA (previously collection of the India Office, now Government Art Collection) in the same year. The painting was also engraved by Meyer and published as a “Poetical Illustration” in the annual Fisher’s Drawing Room Scrap Book, 1832, for a poem called *The African* by Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1802-1838) (**Ben Elwes Fine Art**);
- an impressive early 16<sup>th</sup> century head, carved in white marble in medallion profile, of a ‘Saracen’ wearing a bandana. It may be a heraldic device of the famed Florentine Pucci family, supporters of the Medici, or alternatively a portrait, real or imaginary, of a Moor from Venice, in whose maritime environment sailors, merchants – even pirates – from Africa were frequently seen (**Gallery Desmet**);
- a stylish portrait of **Jacques Fath** (1912-1954), the legendary Parisian fashion designer and tutor to the young **Hubert de Givenchy** (1927-2018), by Serge Ivanoff (1893-1983). Fath designed costumes for films, including for Moira Shearer in Powell & Pressburger’s ‘The Red Shoes’ (1948), and for Kay Kendall in the 1953 film ‘Genevieve’ (**Bagshawe Fine Art**);
- a rare *Portrait of a Venetian Nobleman* by **Sir Peter Paul Rubens** (1577-1640), one of the all-time greats of Western art, unseen on the market for 60 years, that will spearhead **Sotheby’s** Old Master Paintings sale in London on 4 July 2018.

A series of special events and masterclasses in art appreciation are part of the London Art Week gallery experience. Popular past events have explored the Renaissance works of Raphael, Lotte Laserstein and the women she painted during the inter-war years, and the fascination of Sir John Soane for the tomb of Pharaoh Seti I. A full programme of events, exhibition map and opening times will be available shortly at [www.londonartweek.co.uk](http://www.londonartweek.co.uk). There is no charge to visit the exhibitions. Take a lunchtime or post-work gallery hop around two or three neighbouring events, or spend a leisurely day exploring the history of art in Mayfair and St. James’s, the celebrated heartland of London’s gallery scene for over 200 years and home to many of the world’s greatest art dealerships.

ENDS



L to R: *Portrait of a Venetian Nobleman*, Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), oil on oak panel, 60 x 48.6 cm, **Sotheby’s**; *An Italianate Townscape*, Jacob van der Ulft (1621-1689), pen and brown ink, brush and wash on laid paper, 293 x 405 mm, **Galerie Lowet de Wotrenge**; *Attic black-figure amphora*, circa 510 BC, 40 cm high, **Forge & Lynch**.

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