

COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



COLNAGHI PRESENTS HIGHLIGHTS FROM
DREAMSONGS
for LONDON ART WEEK DIGITAL 2020

Colnaghi is delighted to present a selection of fine art works from its highly acclaimed exhibition, *Dreamsongs: from Medicine to Demons to Artificial Intelligence* for London Art Week Digital, from 27 November – 11 December 2020. These paintings, drawings and sculptures, which date from the 15th – 20th centuries, each constitute a different representation of the dream by a variety of masters, including Albrecht Dürer, Henry Fuseli and John Anster Fitzgerald. The works will also be on view at the London gallery until December 2020 alongside the [full exhibition](#).

Johann Heinrich Füssli's powerful, apocalyptic painting *St John's Vision of the Seven Candlesticks*, 1796, shows why the Swiss-born British artist was known as the greatest Romantic explorer of the world of dreams, and the darker recesses of the human psyche. The work was commissioned in 1796 as the modello for an illustration engraved by James Thomson for Thomas Macklin's Holy Bible, and the scene is taken from the Book of Revelation (Chapter 1, verses 12-17).

Dürer's engraving, *The Dream of the Doctor (The Temptation of the Idler)*, 1498, is another highlight. The curious subject matter, showing an elderly man asleep, is linked to contemporary proverbs and literature. According to medieval theology, laziness begets lewdness and temptation. The naked woman and demon bellowing lustful fantasies into the ear of the idler, are thus an emblematic apparition, offered by Dürer as a summation of this vice.

Known as the King of the fairy painters, John Anster Fitzgerald managed to evoke a world where the fairies seemed very close to us, separated at times only by the veil of sleep. There are overt references to opiates in his 'dream' pictures, and nowhere more so than in 'The Nightmare', an alluringly sinister watercolour dated to 1857-8. The highly detailed scene depicted conjures an immense sense of the otherworldly, which belies this painting's delicate scale.

Other artists presented in this group include: a follower of Hieronymous Bosch, Giovanni Battista Morelli, Evelyn Dunbar, the Master of the Fertility of the Egg, John Minton, Heinrich Maria Seck-Carton, Graham Sutherland, Juan de Valdes Leal, and Adolfo Wildt among others.

Says Colnaghi CEO Jorge Coll, *"We are delighted to present this concise selection of works from different periods of art history, which uncover in insightful and thought-provoking ways how different artists have interpreted the dream. We hope you enjoy journeying into our dreamworld, and are able to visit the full presentation in our London gallery from December 3rd as well."*

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Notes to Editors:

About Colnaghi Gallery:

Founded in 1760, Colnaghi is one of the oldest commercial art galleries in the world with an unmatched history. From the late nineteenth century, Colnaghi became the leading dealership of Old Master paintings, selling masterpieces to the greatest collectors and museums of the gilded age. The only major commercial gallery to specialise in artworks from antiquity through to the modern era, Colnaghi handles unique objects from the Ancient World, the finest Old Masters and Modern masterpieces. With galleries and experts in London, New York, and Madrid, Colnaghi is able to offer an unparalleled service and programme of exhibitions and events. Past exhibitions have included a temporary gallery space in Venice for the 58th Biennale, which merged the spirit of the Grand Tour with the desires of the 21st-century traveller. Forthcoming shows in London and New York present opportunities to cross collect from an array of diverse categories.

Over its 260-year history, Colnaghi has grown with its inimitable owners. In 2017, Colnaghi New York was reopened under the new Directorship of Carlos A. Picón, longtime curator of Greek and Roman art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2019, art curator and dealer Victoria Golembiovskaya joined as joint CEO in London alongside existing owner Jorge Coll, establishing Colnaghi as the only major commercial gallery to specialise in artworks from antiquity through to the modern era. Today, Colnaghi maintains an everlasting connection with its past, whilst looking firmly towards the future.

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Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the gallery is by appointment only.

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