

London Art Week Announces 2021 Programme

SUMMER Event, 1-16 July

'Art History in Focus', March & October

WINTER Event and Third LAW Symposium, December



Lidia Alexandrovna Zholtkevich (1900-1989), *The Voice of the Sugar Factory Worker*, watercolour over a pencil underdrawing, **Stephen Ongpin Fine Art**; Bernardo Strozzi (1581-1644), *Saint Sebastian and Saint Rocco*, c.1635, oil on canvas, **Benappi Fine Art**; Andrea Gastaldi (1826 – 1889), *Study for The Siege of Tortona or The Thirst of the people of Tortona*, c. 1866-1867, charcoal with white highlights on light brown paper, **Lullo•Pampoulides**

London Art Week adapted well to the challenges presented by Covid-19 in 2020 and was one of the first major international art events to launch a digital platform in June. Devised from the outset as a dual-aspect event, LAW 2020 took place 'virtually' online, and with a number of concurrent physical exhibitions that were able to open safely in participants' galleries – not only in London but also in several cities around the world, including New York and Paris.

Stephen Ongpin, London Art Week's Chairman, says: "We are not an art fair in the classic sense - our exhibition halls have been the streets of Mayfair and St James's, our exhibitor stands are the participants' galleries - however last year that was a huge advantage. It allowed us to open our galleries at short notice to visitors and offered them the more intimate viewing environment they have always appreciated. During Covid-19 it also had the added bonus of being able to view art safely, in person, in the uncrowded space of a private gallery."

The LAW Board has decided to continue with the same dual format for 2021. London Art Week Digital will take place online, and participating galleries will hold exhibitions in their gallery spaces as long as local regulations allow. The London Art Week website will again host a large selection of works for sale from participants, and at the same time offer an extensive virtual events programme involving dealers, museum curators and collectors - an initiative that was applauded last year and attracted attendees from around the world in their thousands.

London Art Week Summer will take place from Thursday 1 to Friday 16 July 2021. This year the Board has proposed a theme - *Revolution & Renewal* - and will invite all participants to contribute suitable works to a special online exhibition devoted to this topic. The theme will also provide a basis for online events and talks. Inspired by 2020, *Revolution & Renewal* is intended in every sense of the phrase, asking participants to offer a work that expresses their own interpretations of the terms: whether political, social or art-historical revolutions, or the renewal accorded by nature, friendships, well-being or spirituality.



LAW exhibition at Tomasso Brothers Fine Art, St. James's



LAW exhibition at Trinity Fine Art, Mayfair

London Art Week's Winter edition will take place in early December (dates TBC) as usual, the central focus being the third annual LAW Symposium. Details for this highly-regarded event in the world of art scholarship will be released soon.



An added bonus for participants and visitors, since LAW launched the Digital platform in 2020, is a new interim autumn and spring programme of themed online talks and published articles, 'Art History in Focus', which began last October. The next will be in March 2021 and builds on the inaugural theme of women in the art world. A talk in collaboration with Strawberry Hill is scheduled for 16 March, and highlights from an important exhibition, *Medieval Women*, at Sam Fogg, will be two key subjects to look forward to.

(Illustrated left: a bust-length reliquary of a lady in fashionable dress, Germany, Swabia, probably Ulm, c. 1500, Circle of Michel Erhart (c. 1440 - after 1522), in gilded and polychromed limewood, from *Medieval Women*, Sam Fogg.)

In London Art Week team news, Amelia Higgins has returned from maternity leave as Director, London Art Week while Luce Garrigues remains as Director, LAW Digital. Pauline Velge has been promoted to Head of Creative & Digital Development.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

London Art Week offers five thousand years of fine art for sale from a community of leading international dealers, all specialist experts in their fields. The event fosters a collegiate approach to the sharing of knowledge between dealers, collectors and museum curators from around the world, to further the understanding and appreciation of art from antiquity to the present day, with a focus on early, Medieval, Old and Modern works of outstanding quality.



The Gallery of Ben Elwes Fine Art in Mayfair