

# ART & ANTIQUES

BY REBECCA WALLERSTEINER



Images courtesy of: The Art & Antiques Fair, Olympia

## Bright and Bold

Now in its 45th year, The Art & Antiques Fair at Olympia gathers 160 of Europe's leading specialist dealers of art, objects and furniture of the highest calibre. One of the fair's highlights, exhibited by Boccara, will be *Serpent Noir*, a wool tapestry designed by Sonia Delaunay. Marking the artist's oscillation between the reinterpretation of ancient objects and the creation of new forms, the tapestry forms a pseudo-triptych representing the different periods of Delaunay's works. Running alongside the fair will be a programme of free interior design talks given by experts. A Mosimann's run champagne bar will be just the place to meet friends for a restorative glass of fizz.

The Art & Antiques Fair, Olympia,  
Hammersmith Road, W14, 26 June –  
2 July, [olympia-art-antiques.com](http://olympia-art-antiques.com)



## Enlightened Princesses

From 22 June, Kensington Palace celebrates a trio of German princesses – Caroline von Ansbach, Augusta of Saxe-Gotha and Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz – who married into the British royal family in the 18th century. Through their wide-ranging cultural, political and social interests, they helped to shape their world. Joanna Marschner, senior curator at Historic Royal Palaces, says, "Until this point, their contributions have been little understood and it is the aim of this exhibition to demonstrate how they influenced their era in the most vibrant of ways." The exhibition includes personal possessions, such as Charlotte's hand-embroidered needlework pocketbooks and pastels by royal children, as well as masterpieces from Sir Joshua Reynolds, George Stubbs, Thomas Gainsborough and William Kent, to name a few.

22 June – 12 November 2017,  
Kensington Palace, Kensington  
Gardens, W8, [hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace](http://hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace)



## Tribal Art

Smaller, more niche fairs are becoming increasingly important in the capital's thriving art world – case in point, the London Antique Textiles & Tribal Art Fair. Visitors this year will be able to choose from a vast range of antique textiles and buttons, French brocades, flapper dresses, lace, tapestries, quilts, jewellery, costumes and much more, from fifty international specialist dealers. Now in its 17th year, the fair attracts interior designers, as well as collectors and people interested in crafts and vintage.

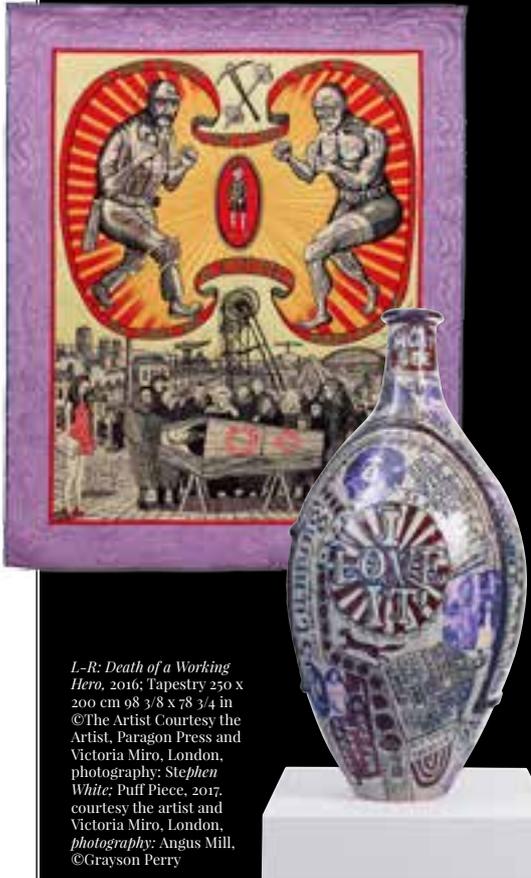
London Antique Textiles & Tribal Art Fair, 11 June, Olympia Hilton Hotel, 380 Kensington High Street, W1, [pa-antiques.co.uk](http://pa-antiques.co.uk)



Image courtesy of: London Antique Textiles and Tribal Art Fair

Artist  
of the  
month

Grayson Perry



L-R: *Death of a Working Hero*, 2016; Tapestry 250 x 200 cm 98 3/8 x 78 3/4 in ©The Artist Courtesy the Artist, Paragon Press and Victoria Miro, London, photography: Stephen White; *Puff Piece*, 2017, courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro, London, photography: Angus Mill, ©Grayson Perry

With an exhibition title such as this, Grayson Perry has a lot to live up to with his new artworks display, *The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* Coinciding with the date of the upcoming general election and the anniversary of the Brexit vote, it will explore how art can help ordinary people in these uncertain times. The politically active, cross-dressing British artist, who nicknamed himself “the transvestite potter”, explains: “I am in the communication business and want to communicate to as wide an audience as possible. Nothing pleases me more than meeting someone at one of my exhibitions from what museum people call ‘a non-traditional background’.” On display will be a huge array of Perry’s lovingly crafted, idiosyncratic ceramics, prints, bronzes and tapestries. He continues, “The new works I am making all have ideas about popularity hovering around them. What kind of art do people like? What subjects? Why do people like going to art galleries these days? What is the relationship of traditional art to social media?” Keep your eyes peeled for two enormous new pots, one for the brexiteers and one for the remainers covered with Perry’s trademark quirky, political images. *Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever! 8 June – 10 September, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, W2, sponsored by Mulberry, serpentinegalleries.org*



### Cabinet of Curiosities

From 4 May, Islamic art specialist Oliver Hoare will show his latest exhibition dedicated to rare and curious objects from 5,000 years of civilisation. Highlights include a 13th-century drinking vessel bearing the seal of Möngke Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, a silver skull pomander believed to have been owned by King James II, and a 2,000-year-old Mexican stargazer. These will be displayed in the former studio of the artist Sir John Lavery, R.A., who occupied the space from 1899 until his death and hosted celebrated sitters, including King George V, Winston Churchill and Oscar Wilde. *4 May - 5 July, 5 Cromwell Place, SW7*



Images courtesy of Oliver Hoare



Images courtesy of: Royal College of Art

### Stars of Tomorrow

The Royal College of Art’s annual graduate show offers visitors the chance to see the freshest contemporary art in London today. It is the most varied of the summer shows, displaying everything from sculpture, ceramics and glassware to photography, paintings and textiles, all of which is available to buy. With its alumni numbering art luminaries David Hockney, Tracey Emin, Peter Blake and Frank Auerbach, the students at the Royal College of Art have plenty of stimulus. The show is often frequented by art dealers and collectors

hunting for the best new creative talent. *Royal College of Art Show 2017, 25 June – 2 July, Kensington Gore, SW7 and RCA Battersea, Hester Road, SW11, rca.ac.uk/show2016*



### Fit for an Emperor

Kensington-based Marchant Gallery has acquired a worldwide reputation for selling beautiful, museum-quality Chinese antiques. Throughout this month, it has chosen to spotlight a fine, Kangxi-period, (c1690), Chinese-porcelain blue and white ginger jar and cover. This type of porcelain enjoyed widespread appeal and was produced for the Chinese domestic market, as well as for export to Europe where it was coveted by the wealthy. *June Antique Spotlight at Marchant, 120 Kensington Church Street, W8, marchantasianart.com*

Below/ Courtesy of Marchant Gallery

