



## FUTURE ANTIQUES

James Gooch, proprietor of Doe & Hope and dealer on BBC1's *The Bidding Room*, has nurtured a unique collaboration with artist and sculptor Beth Carter to bring antiques and contemporary art together



**What is it about Beth's work that works so well with antiques?**

I think because much of Beth's work is steeped in mythology it has one foot in the deep past and the other firmly in the here and now. Her use of traditional materials, such as bronze, means there are no issues of colour or textures clashing with older items. Her pieces are timeless and truly have the potential to be antiques of the future.

**What are your thoughts on mixing contemporary art with antiques?**

I think it shows a maturity in a collector or buyer that can see the depth of beauty in both contemporary art and antiques. By mixing newer pieces with old you can see a visible timeline – and not just a contrast but also common themes running through.

**Do you have any tips for mixing the two?**

I don't think one can advise someone else on how they should mix because ultimately their eye is unique to them. That said, it helps to buy what you love on instinct and try not to overthink a purchase. In my opinion, anything made with head, hand and heart is worth buying. ([doeandhope.com/pages/beth-carter-doe-hope](http://doeandhope.com/pages/beth-carter-doe-hope))



Clockwise from top: Beth Carter in her studio; James Gooch, the Doe & Hope showroom; Clockwork Elephant, bronze, edition 4 of 15, £2,250; Buck Rabbit, bronze resin and jesmonite, edition 5 of 15, £3,340



## ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

**With long summer afternoons on the horizon, has the question of where to buy a good croquet set crossed your mind? Alexander Hallett of Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers offers advice**

'This iconic British summer game was popularised in the 1850s and 1860s by John Jaques II, who manufactured and sold croquet sets of his own design, so for originality

I'd go for this historic brand. Many sets have seen a lot of use so it's important to make sure that none of the hoops are badly bent or the mallets damaged, or that any parts are missing. Older, larger sets are popular and so command a higher price, but you can pick up a good mid century example for £100-£200. As well as being a sustainable way of buying, I love playing with a set that has brought joy to others before me.'



A Jaques eight-mallet croquet set, late 19th century, complete with hoops, posts, balls and mallet, all on a fitted stand. Sold for £850 by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers