

# dealers' dossier



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**Love at first sight**  
and a new lease of  
life for Laurence

AFTER years away, dealer Laurence Mitchell has returned to Camden Passage - where his mother also once had a shop. He is trading in Pierrepont Row, sharing premises with his partner Yvette Pathare, who has run Aquamarine Antiques at No 14 for the past seven years.

Chatting at the Olympia fair last week, Yvette said that Laurence had walked into her shop last December and it was love at first sight. Then she discovered that it was actually her shop from which Laurence had dealt when he was in Camden Passage before.

Laurence is a specialist in Meissen porcelain but says he "trades in general across much of the sphere which antiques covers, carrying 18th and 19th century or earlier Oriental and European ceramics and works of art, and some 20th century".

He started in Camden Passage in 1973 and stayed until about 1996, when he moved to Bournemouth, but he also traded in Portobello Road for a while. Aquamarine offers glass, military and collectables.

The next, larger and updated,

## More and better: the

■ Redesigned for 2012,  
Masterpiece must now focus on  
making money for exhibitors

**GLAMOROUS, imaginative,**  
fresh, unashamedly expensive  
and just a bit OTT -  
*Masterpiece London* is  
back for a third time.

The 2012 Masterpiece fair runs from June 28 to July 4, with a preview on June 27, in the same location as last year, a pretty, phenomenal marquee with a red-brick facade on the South Grounds of The Royal Hospital Chelsea in London.

The fair launches the second wave of the now-divided London June season for art and antiques, opening its doors ten days or so after Olympia and Art Antiques London close theirs, but in time for the capital's major art sales in the auction rooms.

Masterpiece is essentially a dealer-organised fair, co-founded by the furniture dealers Harry Apté of Apté Fredericks, Giles Hutchinson Smith of Mallett, Thomas Woodham-Smith (who was also at the time at Mallett), Simon Phillips of Ronald Phillips and the president of Dutch stand builders Stabio, Harry van der Hoorn.

Nicola Winwood, formerly at Grosvenor House, is fair director and joining this year is the art adviser Philip Hewat-Jaboor, who takes on the two-year role of non-executive chairman from



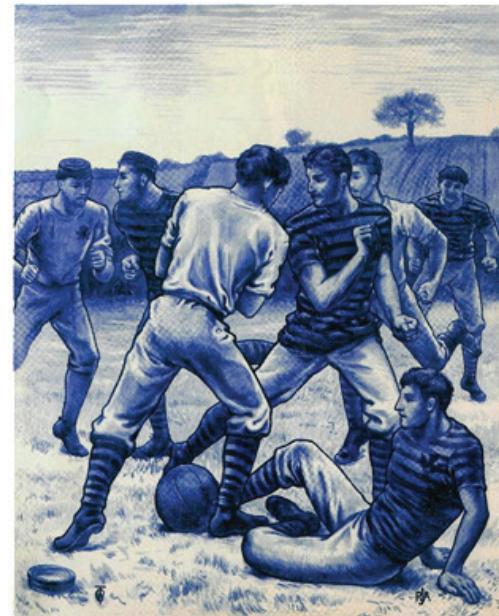
Above: the Houghton Hall red lacquer bachelor's chest will be a highlight on the stand of London furniture dealers Apté Fredericks at Masterpiece. The c.1705, 3ft 3in (1m) high scarlet and gilt japanned writing desk, is profusely decorated with a chinoiserie landscape of pagodas, mounted figures and various flora and fauna. Previously in the collection of the Marquess of Cholmondeley of Houghton Hall, Norfolk, and Sir Philip Sassoon of Trent Park, Hertfordshire, it is now priced at £450,000.

### Ancient & Modern

PARIS antiquities dealers Galerie Cheneil plan to mix antiques with a collection of Picasso's ceramics to create a contemporary room set on their stand at Masterpiece. Brothers Adrian and Olivier Cheneil have grown up with Picasso ceramics - their parents have been collecting them for 30 years - and feel they mesh well with ancient works. Among the pieces for sale is this c.1388-1292BC



## 2012 Masterplan



Hence the redesign of the 2012 marketing material to incorporate the simple tagline: Art Antiques Design - undoubtedly an improvement.

So what else is new for Masterpiece 2012?

to one side and the large bar down the centre will be occupied by the seafood restaurant Scott's - and we have brought in a wider range of contemporary design, with displays of contemporary pieces from the Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

### Sporting chance among ceramics

London dealer Robert Young never fails to create an inventive display of his signature stock of folk art wherever he goes and his stand at Masterpiece this year will be no exception.

A recent find that he is particularly pleased with is a set of 12 blue and white ceramic panels commissioned in 1878 from Copeland Spode by the Scottish industrialist, philanthropist, politician and collector Thomas Russell for the billiard room of his new home, Clevedon House, in Kelvinbridge, Glasgow.

Each of the 2ft 8in x 2ft 2in (80 x 65cm) earthenware panels is hand painted by the Copeland artists Robert John Abraham (1850-1925) and Lucia Besche (d.1901), and depict the following sports: ice hockey, shot put, cricket, running, football, polo, tent pegging, fly fishing, hunting, hare coursing, shooting and staking. These are probably the largest known examples of this kind of ceramic art from their day and Masterpiece will be the first time that they have been offered for sale in public.

Robert will be offering them together as a set for £240,000.

Left: the football scene from a set of 12 large Copeland Spode sporting panels on offer at £240,000 from Robert Young at Masterpiece.

Drake and the London-based property developers and designers Candy & Candy will both be creating room sets that fuse old and new, mixing designs from different periods to show how they can be effectively combined.

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1. What do you do?  
I've been dealing in art, antiques and attire for 12 years.

2. What was your first job?  
Scenic painter.

3. Best thing about being a dealer?  
I like the learning aspect and finding an audience for my take on things. And the worst? I wish I could keep the best things but you have to trade.

4. What has been your best buy?  
A miniature German memento mori painting in Ireland, a true museum piece, which I sold back to a German collection.

5. What is your dream object?  
The Draughtsman-Writer by Henri Mallard.

6. What is the biggest threat, in your opinion, to the trade at the moment?  
I can't see a threat to the trade as such, but it comes down to whether you can or can't afford to be in the trade.

7. Any advice for those starting out in the trade?  
Buy up.

8. If you weren't a dealer, what would you be?  
A painter.

9. Favourite book?  
A History of Orgies by Burgo Partridge.