



Welcome

to this month's bumper June and July issue, dedicated – in part – to this summer's sparkling London antiques fairs. We have pages of previews, including spotlights on individual dealers, as well as expert advice from some of the many specialists attending.

If you are anything like me, it's very easy to feel overawed by the grandeur of the London fairs. Hobnobbing with Hollywood 'A' listers is a long way from scrabbling through a box of assorted china at my local auctioneers. But, take heart, it happens to

the very best, as BBC *Antiques Roadshow* expert Marc Allum attests to on page 72. His advice, to fair goers who haven't got £½m in their back pockets? Make the most of the dealers on hand, all of whom will be happy to chat about their areas of expertise – regardless of your spending power.

I don't know if you heard the dandy designer Laurence Llewelyn Bowen on Radio 4 recently? He was lamenting bland Scandinavian design that for so long has dislodged pattern, antiques and a tradition from British homes. While Laurence berated his teenage daughter for her love of a well-known Swedish furniture company, Nick Carter from Lots Road Auctioneers went a step further. He believes our love of Scandi minimalism dates from the time of New Labour and the trend towards globalism and its design philosophy. Now, with Brexit on the cards, we are retreating to the traditional styles of yesteryear. He has noticed a slowing down in sales of Scandi style, in favour of an increased interest in 18th and 19th-century antiques. It's an interesting debate and one taken up by Edd Thomas on page 24.

Elsewhere in the magazine, on page 42, we discover what effect the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen will have on collecting her work; we have a guide to collecting Lowry prints on page 13 and, on page 26, we go behind the scenes with one of the UK's leading collectors of tribal art. We also welcome the well-known face of Charles Hanson from BBC's *Bargain Hunt* as our latest columnist on page 29. Enjoy the issue.

Georgina

Georgina Wroe, Editor

PS We have a great subscription offer on page 57. New subscribers can save 50 percent of the cost of the magazine and receive a copy of every collector's essential reference book *Jackson's Silver and Gold Marks* for free.

We love

These early 19th-century Swedish fisherman's hooks. Up to 22cm (9in) high, they have a wonderful sculptural feel. Priced £2,800 and on sale from Robert Young Antiques at this year's Masterpiece. London.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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MARK LITTLER
puts Lowry prints in the spotlight



CATHERINE SOUTHON
on her life as an auctioneer



CHARLES HANSON
joins our panel of columnists



MICHAEL JEFFERY
on Burmantofts faience pottery

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