



Primitive influence on modern boosts folk art

Recent exhibitions at London institutions such as the Modigliani show at Tate Modern may well have contributed to rising interest in folk art.

Although he stresses that his analysis is unscientific, dealer **Robert Young** cautiously attributes some of that trend to displays which have emphasised the primitive influences and elements apparent in certain 20th century works.

Wide audience

His annual folk art exhibition is a chance to present outstanding pieces to a wide audience and this year the rise in popularity in this field is a reason to expect that the attending crowd will be bigger than ever.

Speaking about the market, he says that 'people are still competing for the same few

things but it's all getting a little bit busier'.

Whether or not the trend will have an effect, "we like doing it," Young says. "It's the thing we do each year that people really come to see en masse."

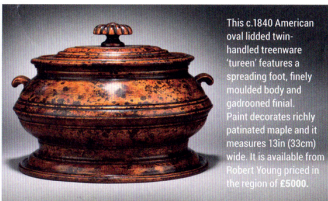
Running from May 11-19, the event brings clients old and new to the Battersea Bridge Road gallery. Those who visit to look if not to buy come too and are welcome.

Young starts collecting for the show directly after his appearance at the Masterpiece fair in the summer, assembling pieces that will work well together and "go best within the space", showing all visitors how the objects might work in the home.

The show is accompanied by a full-colour catalogue of highlights. robertyoungantiques.com



Left: this massive French c.1850 pottery harvest jug measures 15 1/2 in (39.5cm) high. The pottery is decorated with 'marbled' slipware and the piece is offered at **£2000** by Robert Young.



This c.1840 American oval lidded twin-handled treenware 'tureen' features a spreading foot, finely moulded body and gadrooned finial. Paint decorates richly patinated maple and it measures 13 in (33cm) wide. It is available from Robert Young priced in the region of **£5000**.



Priced at **£900**

This c.1880 English primitive folk art doll is made of hand-carved mahogany and pine. It measures 10 1/2 in (26.5cm) tall and is offered for **£900** by Robert Young.

5 Questions

Jeremy Jones of The Crown Gallery next stands at the Phoenix Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair. See main story. For more info, see also website at the back and www.crowngallery.co.uk



1. How did you get your start?

I started in some rooms above a bookshop in Chichester in 1980. It was next to a local Linn. Since the name The Crown Gallery.

2. What is your focus?

I am a very eclectic buyer so my stock has no particular theme. Broadly speaking, I offer oils and watercolours from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, but if I like a painting, I will try to buy it.

However, my favourite genre is the 19th century, in particular Victorian oils and watercolours. I try to work in lower price ranges, from £200 to £2,000.

3. How has the market changed?

When I started there was no internet or digital photography. I would find 40,000-50,000 miles a year, one maybe 20 miles a week and have piles of catalogues. Now it is all online and most dealers are based in their homes. If you go to an auction it is not the fun it used to be. The internet has enabled people from all over the world to view catalogues, so usually as the dealer or collector 20 miles down the road I prefer the old days.

4. How bright of your career so far?

Getting a watercolour to the British Museum.

5. Real life or museum market?

A very strong dry market - don't need the coffee.



Green after Charles Robert Henry's *Approaching Storm* (1866), an oil on board measuring 29 x 38.5 in (74 x 98cm) for **£10,000** at the upcoming Phoenix Fair.

To find out more about the art market, visit www.antiquetrade gazette.com

Artists put together a fragmented history



Left: Maria Francesca Melissa Cooper (1862), oil on canvas, 11 x 8 1/2 in (28 x 21.5cm), £10,000 art.

An exhibition on two artists active during the Chinese Artistry of the Great Proletariat opens at [Bonhams](http://www.bonhams.com) next month.

Artist Maria Francesca (1862) and photographer Maria Francesca (c.1900) both worked in Shanghai during the 1910s and 20s. The exhibition, *Fragmented Histories*, runs from May 11 to June 20 at the Bonhams gallery and is an attempt to expand the understanding of Chinese art history beyond the established 'official' style through an examination of the work of these artists.

Francesca addressed *Disappearance and Reappearance* (commissioned by Phoenix Fair) to the series of partially obscured mixed-media self-portraits. *Disappearance and Reappearance* photographs used historical conditions of heavy fog and low light, capturing the country's topographical divide of desert and mountains. Works are priced from **£2000 to £10,000**. www.bonhams.com



Right: Maria Francesca *Disappearance* (1900), oil on canvas, 11 x 8 1/2 in (28 x 21.5cm), £10,000 art.