

# SUMMER OF Art & Antiques



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**Above:** one showstopper at *Masterpiece* is set to be this triceratops skull, which will take up half of David Aaron's stand. From the late Cretaceous Period, c.68-66 million years ago, it is 5ft 7in (1.7m) high and 4ft 11in (1.5m) long and is offered for a six-figure sum.

The summer season is back in force. For the first time since 2019 there is a wealth of major art and antiques events for eager buyers and dealers – both in London and in Europe.

“To finally be going back again is very enticing and we have taken a larger stand than ever before,” says Robert Young, one of the exhibitors at *Masterpiece London*. He predicts the fair will appeal to “an audience starved of ‘in person’ art and antiques fairs” and draw huge crowds.

Attending every event this year will be a challenge. Here is the logistical balancing act:

First, *BRAFA Art Fair* opens in Brussels and runs from June 19-26 (not to mention the contemporary giant *Art Basel* which will draw crowds from June 16-19). Then it's over to west London for *The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia* (June 23-26) and the West End for *Mayfair Art* will be a challenge. Here is the logistical balancing act:

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So far so good – except then it's time for *TEFAF Maastricht*, the huge traditional European art fair which has swapped its usual March slot for the summer this year (June 25-30). Somewhat controversially, the new dates mean that *Masterpiece London*, the similarly high-level event in Chelsea, overlaps *TEFAF* by one day, opening on June 30 and running until July 6. But once you

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are there it's a shame not to miss *London Art Week* that takes place around various London galleries from July 3-8 and *Asian Art in London's* inaugural summer walking trail (June 29-July 2). Exhausted? You will be.

Of course, with such a packed schedule, some galleries have had to make difficult decisions.

Martin Levy, director at H Blairman & Sons, chose *Masterpiece* over *TEFAF*.

“I was somewhat surprised the organisers of *TEFAF* had chosen dates that clash with an established event at the height of the summer in London,” he says. “Fairs only survive with the support of the dealers, and this has put everyone under unnecessary pressure. The art market belongs to London in June. This has traditionally been the case and will continue.”

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However, Young expects many VIP visitors will make both events. “My hunch is that the serious

international buyers (both collectors and institutional) will attend both previews and each event will retain the loyal local visitor base they have built up over the years,” he says.

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As a specialist in European paintings, Dover Street gallery *Stair Sainty* was among those choosing international buyers (both collectors and institutional) will attend both previews and each event will retain the loyal local visitor base they have built up over the years,” he says.

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As a specialist in European paintings, Dover Street gallery *Stair Sainty* was among those choosing *TEFAF*. Earlier in the year, gallery director Thomas Smith said: “We would have done both if they hadn't moved. Even if they'd been just a couple of weeks apart, we might have considered it. We were

**Where to go and what to buy this summer**

ANTIQUES TRADE  
gazette

**Right:** Robin Martin Antiques brings this pair of silver mounted Imari square bottle vases or Tokari, dating from 1700, with an asking price of £12,000 to *The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia*.

