## Collecting

## Masterpiece Highlights of the fair

Masterpiece was first established to fill the gap left by the Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair when it folded in 2009. Over seven editions, it has expanded its remit far beyond objets de vertu and period furniture: 20thcentury art and design now has a strong showing, with a focus this year on Italian postwar artists, de Chirico, Boetti and Fontana among them.

CEO Nazy Vassegh, a former senior director at Sotheby's, came to the fair three and a half years ago with the aim of strengthening its art portfolio: "We have British, we have Italian, we have Japanese, we have Indian modern art," she says. "You will find international postwar art at Masterpiece now in a wide varied way."

The fair's eclectic range ("an auction season in eight days," says Vassegh) encourages cross-collecting: contemporary art enthusiasts can discover their protégés' forebears, and antiquities dealers might chance upon eccentric design oddities. "Masterpiece draws your eyes to things you may not otherwise see," says Vassegh.

30-July 6, masterpiecefair.com



Blackamoore Trade Sign" (pictured, £14,000) is one of their more unusual for sale; the mid-19th century sculpture was used in shop window displays to promote "Zulu King" tobacco. As gallerist Robert Young puts it, it "defines an era unimaginably

remote from ours today".



Rarely seen works Christopher Kingzett Fine Art is presenting Graham Sutherland's 1954 "Study of Sir Winston Churchill" (pictured, £80,000) - a rare preparatory sketch for a 1954 portrait deemed so unflattering that it was destroyed. The sketch is one of several works at the fair that haven't been seen in public for several decades.

The number of galleries showing midcentury and contemporary design at Masterpiece is increasing year on year. Among the more unusual works is the Danish art-deco grandfather clock from 1927 (pictured), for sale at Modernity. Its pattern of Egyptian gods and hieroglyphics was inspired by the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Of particular note among contemporary offerings is work from Zaha Hadid's "Liquid Glacial" collection of transparent acrylic furniture at London's David Gill Gallery.

<20th-century and contemporary art Under Nazy Vassegh's direction, Masterpiece has introduced a strong roster of galleries showing 20thcentury and contemporary art. This year's modern offerings include André Derain's "Still Life with Fish" (1940-45, pictured) at Chiale Fine Art, and Juan Gris's "Nature Mort" (1916) at Dickinson. Contemporary Asian art also features prominently, with Yoshitomo Nara at Whitestone Gallery and ink paintings by Qin Feng at Michael Goedhuis



Belgian gallery Axel Veryoordt encapsulates the credo of cross-collecting, selling everything from contemporary art to furniture and antiquities. Important works for sale include a striking fragment of a Roman statue showing a leg and a foot on a base, from the 2nd century AD (pictured). Vervoordt is one of nine exhibitors bringing antiquities that contribute to the fair's historical range of over 5,000 years. Among the earliest works are a fragment of a seated Pharaoh (c1900BC), also at Vervoordt, and an Egyptian hieroglyphic relief





NANNA





Peter Petrou's eclectic booth this year

cover designed by Le Corbusier and a

includes a 19th-century anatomical

model of an orangutan, a manhole

pair of Chukchi snow goggles made

(pictured, £24,000) that were used

looking to peruse or purchase unusual

historical artefacts should also visit

whose exhibits include a case of 40

rare Australian parrots and a 17th-

century 24-sided gambling ball,

dating from a time when

lotteries to raise money for

building maritime defences.

parliament resorted to

the booth of London's Finch & Co.

as protection against the dazzling

snow of Arctic Russia. Fair-goers

from fossilised mammoth ivory

