

“ Robert Young’s stylish stand ”



FINE EXAMPLES (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): THE MAIN EVENT; ROBERT YOUNG'S STYLISH STAND; ELISKÀ SAPERA'S TERRACE BAR; THE STUNNING GISELLE MANNERING DESIGNED VIP ROOM

TERRACE BAR PHOTOGRAPHY: STEPHEN FRANK VIP ROOM: PHOTOGRAPHY: PHOTONINTERIORS.NET



We take a look at one of London's most prestigious art and antiques events

The Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair, now in its 36th year took place in June. It's London's essential art and antiques event for private buyers, curators, interior designers and devotees from around the world.

This year's event attracted a glittering array of celebrities with visits from Dustin Hoffman, the Hiltons, Piers Morgan and Tamara Beckwith to name a few. All were keen to purchase original works of art from the world's best dealers. Interior designers also visited the fair in force, with many

dealers noting a rise in sales to this group; Michael Smith, the Obamas' interior designer, bought several pieces.

The BIDA was a partner of the fair this year and our involvement was manifold. BIDA members were invited to participate in a competition, which required them to design a decorative scheme for the VIP and press room for this year's exhibition. Giselle Mannering of De Hasse Ltd was the winner and produced an elegant room with contemporary furniture from B&B Italia, with a mix of artwork and antiques sourced from exhibitors at the show.

The Terrace Bar was designed by Eliskà Sapera with a feel of *Brideshead Revisited*, to coincide with the Castle Howard loan exhibition of exquisite pieces at the show.

Christopher Vane Percy contributed to

the Sotheby's Lectures as part of a panel with American interior designers on "Fine Art within Interiors: Technical and Aesthetic Issues", with a presentation and images of his work in historical homes.

The quality of items that were brought to the fair as well as the effort and creativity displayed in the stands was exceptional. On the Collectors' Preview Day, the BIDA awarded the best stand design. The winners were BIDA corporate member Robert Young (best regular build stand), Architectural Heritage and Müllendorff Antiques/Galerie Philippe Rapin (joint winners of the best space-only Stands).

It was a tough task, but one that was carried out with great enthusiasm by the judges, who were Christopher Vane Percy, Giselle Mannering and Eliskà Sapera. ■

“ BIDA corporate member Robert Young winner of best regular build stand ”