## 35 stars... and that's not all, folk

LONDON'S Robert Young, the leading dealer in his field, hosts his eighth Annual Exhibition of Antique Folk Art at his gallery at 68 Battersea Bridge Road, SW11, from May 10 to 19. Those

who have visited the shop or seen Robert's distinctive and, always stylishly presented, stand at quality fairs know the kind of mix to expect – vernacular pieces from all corners of Europe singled out by the dealer for their form, surface, rarity and charm.

Naive paintings, an imposing copper weather vane, polychrome-decorated wall sconces, decoys, Scandinavian love tokens and a splendid collection of hand-carved and painted toys are among the 35 offerings in the illustrated catalogue.

And that represents just a segment of the whole exhibition which offers more than 100 pieces.

Prices start around £750 and climb to around £20,000 for an 18th century oak and elm long table.

Long a specialist and published expert in European folk art, Robert Young's chosen area of antiques is now very much of the moment.

The past five or so years have seen an ever-growing following for these simple, possibly primitive, often functional and, very often, bold and colourful objects.

The recognised decorative appeal of these pieces, and, indeed, their contemporary equivalents, obviously has not gone unnoticed by Robert who, with his wife Josyane, has for more than 20 years been running in tandem with the antiques business Rivière, a successful interior design consultancy.



**Above:** at Robert Young's annual folk art show this English c.1890 child's bicycle constructed from fruitwood, oak, iron and leather, 2ft 4in (71cm) high, costs £1800.

**Below:** very probably Italian, this provincial Rococo console table in carved and painted wood and parcel gilt, c.1850, 2ft 9in (84cm) wide, is a rustic reinterpretation of the more formal Rococo style and thus nestles nicely in the folk art fold. At Robert Young's Battersea show it will be offered for £3800.

