

# ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE SPRING

ART, DECORATIVE & INTERIORS

6–9 April 2017 | Halls 18–19, NEC Birmingham

Press Information  
& High Res Images 2017

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## Chinese, American and Trade Buyers Boost Business at Spring AfE

Chinese and American trade buyers boosted sales at Antiques for Everyone Spring Fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from 6 - 9 April. It proved to be a very busy first day with a huge queue for the 11am opening.

‘The busiest first day for many years with buyers queuing up to pay,’ said a delighted Ronald Knee of Alexanders from Somerset, specialising in the Decorative Arts.



*Opening Day queue at Antiques for Everyone*

Kirsty Lewis of Decouverte said ‘It’s been a great opening day. People came with the desire and determination to buy, which is so refreshing these days!’

Regular exhibitor Allan Coutts added: ‘It’s been a damn good fair and full of optimism. Customers like a tried and trusted event with a strong variety of goods at prices across the range.’

David Hersey of Antiques Twenty Four, with a wide choice of collectables, said towards the close: ‘It’s been a blockbuster few days!’

A rise in the number of Asian collectors attending added a new dimension, bringing business to many dealers, not just those specialising in Asian pieces. Every day, Chinese private collectors and trade buyers were making their way across the fair purchasing a wide variety of Eastern and Western artefacts. Drove House Antiques sold not only their Chinese ceramics but also textiles and European ceramics and enjoyed one of their most successful fairs to date. Japanese buyers also returned, making purchasers across the fair, especially at Steve Sly Japanese Works of Art, specialising in Japanese bronze and ivory sculpture.

Sculpture proved a strong seller amongst many exhibitors. Hickmet Fine Arts from London sold a large number of items, including five ‘big ticket’ items, several to an international buyer who had flown to the UK for the fair.

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Equally pleased were Hazlehurst Antiques, enjoying one of their most successful visits to AfE for many years, selling mainly to new clients, including several who had travelled from the West Country.

Sales of paintings were led by a large oil painting by Charles Hunt, titled 'All the Fun of the Fair', exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1846, measuring 31 x 48 inches and sold for £15,000 by Adrian Phippen Fine Art from Totnes. Many art specialists sold well, notably John Sheppard from Hove, making more than a dozen sales of English watercolours on the opening day alone; A.J.Art, specialising in 20th century oils and watercolours, who sold around fifteen paintings in total; Ashleigh House, with numerous sales of 18th and 19th century oil paintings; The Blackbrook Gallery, who were delighted to sell a number of animal 19th century farm animal portraits; Plumbs Fine Art, with contemporary works and sculpture; and Cynthia Walmsley, specialising in early portrait miniatures.



*'All the Fun of the Fair' - sold for £15,000 from Adrian Phippen Fine Art*



*Julian Eade (back) with a customer on his stand.*

In other areas, pottery and porcelain specialists recorded good business, boosted by the presence of the English Ceramics Circle, staging the Spring Feature Exhibition, accompanied by talks from their leading members. Jupiter Antiques, Julian Eade, Corscombe Fine Porcelain, newcomer Marsh McNamara, John Newton, Antiques, Alexanders Antiques, Philip Carrol and Valerie Main all expressed their satisfaction with sales, to new and regular customers. Scandinavian pottery specialists Lynways from Bristol were especially delighted - 'We've had to re-stock every day with ceramics and our

Scandinavian silver and jewellery. It's been our best-ever fair. Interestingly, social media seems to have played a large part in bringing in new, younger collectors.'

The furniture specialists also benefited from a new enthusiasm amongst buyers. Art Deco specialist Jeroen Markies sold furniture, art, lighting and bronzes, which left his stand looking quite different by closing day. 'It's been better than ever,' said a delighted Jeroen. Among the traditional furniture dealers, Melody Antiques made sales every day, clearing their stand of three oak farmhouse dressers, tables, chairs and many smaller pieces. Others selling well included Cantelo, whose stand also appeared thoroughly depleted by the close; Mark Seabrook Antiques with early country pieces; Mark Buckley Antiques, showing late 19th century walnut and mahogany; Ellis Fine Art (also with paintings), Marvellous Furniture, specialising in Arts & Crafts; and returning Devon dealer Stephen Dymond Antiques.



*Sold farmhouse dresser from Melody Antiques. (Accompanying Blue & White set for decoration)*

Silver and jewellery dealers reported good sales. Among those most pleased were jewellery dealers Plaza, Gemma Redmond Vintage, Greenstein Antiques, D.B.Gems, T.Robert and Shapiro & Co, and silver dealers Eastdale Antiques, Cotswold Collectables, Highland Antiques and newcomers Grasilver, specialising in Scandinavian pieces.

In other areas, John Sheppard and Erna Hiscock, their stand full of early folk art and rare samplers, enjoyed strong sales, both to trade and private collectors, including American purchasers; Garth Vincent Arms & Armour, once again selling early pieces to collectors; and Jonathan Harris Studio Glass with contemporary cameo and art glass pieces.

As usual, the fair provided additional attractions including a series of talks from Judith Miller and Will Farmer, the well-known experts, authors and TV celebrities, which were extremely well attended and, as exhibitor David Hickmet pointed out, led directly to two good sales from his stand.

Commenting at the close, fair Director Mary Claire Boyd said: 'The appeal of this fair is continuing to spread, especially amongst Asian collectors and this is resulting in good sales. Many exhibitors also noted stronger trade buying than for some time. Dealers and collectors want a very wide range of fresh stock at affordable prices and they want to take it away immediately - which is exactly what AfE provides.'

The Summer Antiques for Everyone takes place from 20th - 23rd July 2017.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

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## A Selection of Available High Res Images



*Nicholas Lury (R) explains the finer points of a painting to a potential collector.  
On the stand of Cambridge Fine Art.*

Keith Ellis of Ellis Fine Art  
on his stand of furniture and paintings.



Ken Marsh from Bristol of Marsh McNamara, a first-time exhibitor at Antiques for Everyone.

Younger collectors browse  
the catalogue at the fair

