

THE SPECIALIST ART FAIR

Home to a vibrant mix of fine art, applied arts, jewellery and furniture, this London fair takes place in Mayfair's Berkeley Square each October

Pavilion of Art & Design London (PAD) is one of the few places where you can see masterpieces by Picasso and Joan Miró next to jewellery by Man Ray, 1950s Italian furniture and contemporary design-art by Zaha Hadid. This rich and inspirational mix comes courtesy of the fair's carefully edited selection of 60 international galleries.

London dealer Ben Brown, of Ben Brown Fine Arts, has been showing at the fair since its inception in 2007, and has some useful tips for getting the most out of your visit. 'Dealers at PAD are specialists in their field, but you shouldn't be afraid to ask them questions,' he says. 'They should give you honest, straight answers about everything. But don't rush into buying anything; go home, think about it and do your research.'

Many of the bigger items on show require deep pockets – a major 20th-century artwork could have a £10 million price tag – but you can find more affordable items, too. Try Adrian Sassoon for contemporary art ceramics, Stockholm gallery Modernity for mid-century Scandinavian furniture and pottery, or Didier Antiques for post-war artists' jewellery. And check out the



PICTURE *SMALL GOLD SENZA TITOLO*, GAVIN TURK

big names making their debut at the fair: they include Pearl Lam Galleries, one of the stars of the Hong Kong scene, and Parisian designer Hervé Van Der Straeten, known for his sculptural furniture. We'll be stopping by

Milan's Galleria Rossella Colombari to lust after mid-century treasures, and Richard Nagy to admire 1920s German artworks. *Pavilion of Art & Design London, October 10-14 (padlondon.net)*

PICTURES *BRONZE ALTAR VASES AND ARMOIRES A SIX MEDAILLES*, CHRISTIE'S



THE AUCTIONEER

Orlando Rock is the deputy chairman of Christie's Europe

'The point about auction houses is that they are ever-changing. You could see Islamic art, Chinese ceramics and Old Masters all within one week. Going to sales is a good way to get an overview of a particular area. Every sale has a viewing period of four to five days, so go along and

take advantage of the knowledge that's on offer. People who work at auction houses like to talk about the work and if you ask them questions, you will learn an awful lot. Use online catalogues to get to know your area of interest.

Familiarise yourself with the auction-buying process; drop in and see a sale in progress. There are many different ways to buy at auction: in person, by phone,

by leaving a commissioned bid or even over the internet. Take into account the buyer's premium; it is generally around 20 per cent of the value of the piece, although it can be less. You should also be aware of the tax situation: if a piece is coming from outside the UK for sale, the buyer could be liable for the import tax.' >

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