

André Groult chairs, circa 1912; Maison Gerard.



Ben Nicholson's *June 56 (Morbihan)*; Richard Green.



Barbara Hepworth sculpture, 1967; Browse & Darby.

# Gold Standard

The International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show is where trends are born—and collections are begun

Collectors, start your engines. The International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show is back in town, launching the New York social season—so expect to see Kravises, De la Rentas, and other members of the *soigné* set checking out the treasures. “You never know what you’ll discover,” says decorator Joanne de Guardiola, who is a cochairman of the show’s preview-night party on October 18. Although a longtime admirer of French and English antiques, her favorite finds at the fair have included a contemporary Chinese painting and a Napoleon-era helmet.

The gala, which benefits the Society of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, offers a sneak peek of the 18-year-old exhibition, considered one of the top antiques shows in North America. Open to the public October 19–25, it will be held at the landmark Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue.

The 65 worldwide dealers include the usual blue-chip suspects—Mallett, Didier Aaron et Cie, and Kentshire, to name a few. “They make a huge effort to bring antiques that are interesting and fresh to the market,” Guardiola says. And like those leading sources, Angus Wilkie of Cove Landing has been hoarding treasures for the six-day event and is bringing objects made of rare and exotic woods.

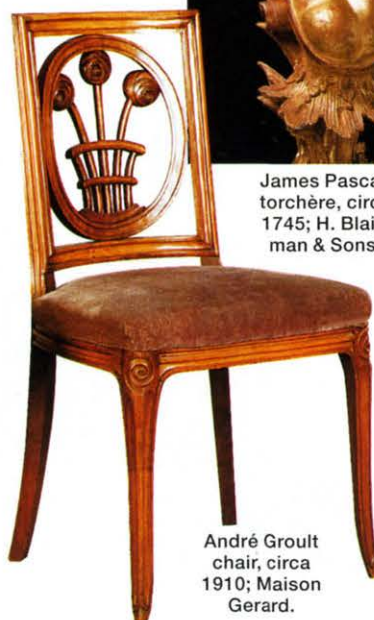
A number of modern-minded participants are leavening the *ormolu*. Maison Gerard has circa-1910 André Groult fruitwood chairs. Browse & Darby is presenting a 1967 sculpture by Barbara Hepworth. One of Axel Vervoordt’s prime pieces is a 1953 Alberto Burri painting. And Phoenix Ancient Art, a dealer new to the show, will dazzle with Cycladic and Neolithic Mediterranean marvels. “They’re abstract in form, which attracts contemporary-art collectors,” says dealer Hicham Aboutaam. Tempted? Then let the buying begin. **CHRISTOPHER MASON**



George II mirror, circa 1755; Kentshire.



James Pascall torchère, circa 1745; H. Blairman & Sons.



André Groult chair, circa 1910; Maison Gerard.



Penwork cabinet, circa 1815; Hyde Park Antiques.