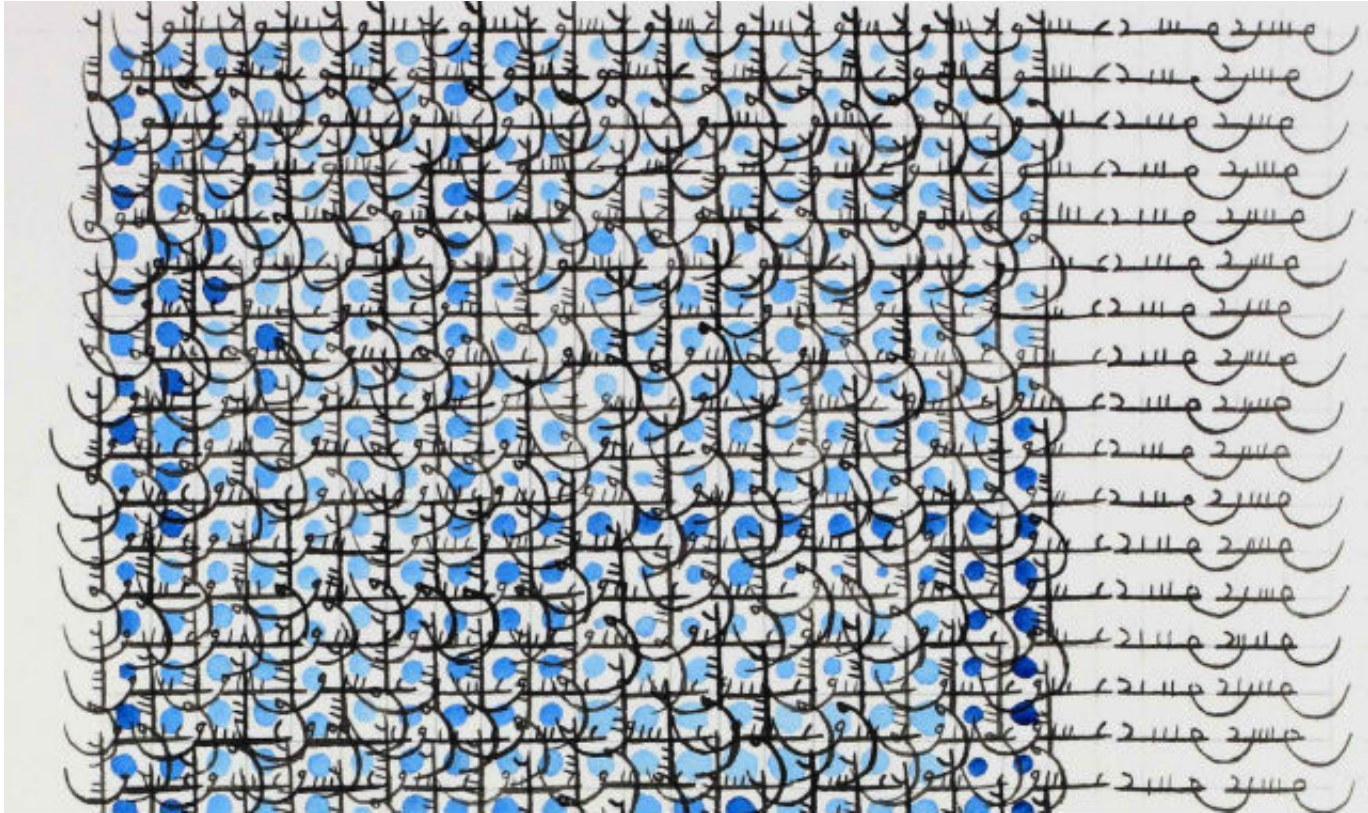


Masterpiece Closes as it Begins: Contemporary and Antiquities Both Sell Well



Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery
Hadieh Shafie ink on paper piece Grid 21, 2013

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Masterpiece London's varied collector base maintained a strong presence until its final day (July 3, 2013), as early indications predict a 20% increase in overall footfall compared to previous years.

Cross-collecting was a continued trend, with high value sales in everything from contemporary art to antiquities, jewellery and furniture.

Henry Neville, group sales and marketing director of [Mallett Antiques](#) told BLOUIN ARTINFO UK: "We

had a European client who came to the fair, bought two paintings, an antiquity and an Oriental ceramic on the second or third day from four different dealers. These were two areas they had never bought from before. The buzz was good, they had confidence to go way outside the specialisms they'd previously acquired from, so yes, the emergence of cross-collecting here has come to pass."

The fair's latest headline sales include [Trinity House Paintings](#)'s sale for a "six figure sum" of a 1917 painting of Venice by **Lucien Levy Dhurmer** to an unnamed buyer. [Ronald Phillips Furniture](#) sold five pieces, each for approximately £100,000, along with a "George II bookcase, desk and commode," for an unknown sum, according to the dealer.

[The Fine Art Society](#) has had a good run, selling an **Emily Young** sculpture *Cassandra* for £120,000, along with "eight other pieces," according to the organisation.

[Wartski](#) sold a necklace with 21 pearls, believed to have once been owned by **Marie Antoinette**, for an unspecified sum.

In antiquities, [The Merrin Gallery](#) sold a pair of table legs from the first century BC for £165,000.

A spokesman for [Mullany](#) said: "There is more and more interest in antiquities here: you can find a Pre-Columbian piece for a decent price compared to a more modern work," emphasising that sales would continue after the event after a strong start to the fair had slightly settled.

Contemporary sales have also been strong in places. **Daniel Hamparsumyan**, director of sales and exhibitions at [Leila Heller Gallery](#), said they were "extremely pleased at the level of connoisseurship by British and foreign collectors attending Masterpiece," after it sold **Pablo Picasso**'s 1967 pencil and wash on paper work *Trois Têtes* for a "mid six figure sum" to a private European collector.

The director also highlighted the importance of public institutions at the fair: the [British Museum](#) has bought its **Hadieh Shafie** ink on paper work *Grid 21*, 2013 (pictured), while there was strong interest in the artist's work from another major national British institution specialising in contemporary art. In addition, Grigorian's *Desert* (Earthworks series) from 1972 sold to a major European collection while the dealer's headline £1.1 million **Anselm Kiefer** work remained unsold at the time of writing.

Gordon Samuel, co-founder of [Osborne Samuel Gallery](#) said he'd sold "a strong mixture of paintings and sculpture." "We have been here since the beginning, this is our fourth year," he added.

"The first two years were good, the third was touch and go and this has been our best ever. We have a beautiful space in Mayfair but people these days want to see everything under one roof. The hope is you see a new kind of collector which is the purpose of being here." He said he sold to one US collector "who happened to be in London" though hinted the fair was becoming a destination in itself.

Such was the confidence inspired by a last minute surge in activity – a charity gala yesterday evening (June 2, 2013) raised £840,000 – that it was difficult to find anyone with a bad word. **Amy Burton**, a spokeswoman for [Hancocks](#) said Masterpiece was a “growing fair which is improving every year. You can’t deny the calibre of the people coming through.”

Indeed, those spotted since the fair opened on June 26, 2013 include **Jasper Conran**, **Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie**, **Sarah Jessica Parker**, **Anish Kapoor** and **Uma Thurman**, who is believed to have bought work from [Jorge Welsh Oriental Porcelain & Works of Art](#).

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