

The Aura of Art

By Patricia Valicenti



Culture

While the French capital remains dedicated to the arts throughout the year, September brings special shows and gatherings offering an opportunity to see exceptional works in exceptional settings on both sides of the Seine. La Biennale des Antiquaires remains firmly ensconced on the Right Bank while the traditional *Parcours des Mondes* wends through a host of galleries on the Left Bank. And this year there is a brand new art rendezvous, fittingly called *Le Rendez-Vous*, being held in prestigious galleries on the Left Bank as well.

A world of elegance, refinement and style is unfolding beneath the glass dome of the Grand Palais this month as the Biennale des Antiquaires antique fair unfolds once again. The show, organised by the Paris-based *Syndicat National des Antiquaires*, the French Union of Antique Dealers, had traditionally been held every two years, however starting this year it will become an annual event. It opened up for the first time in 1956 with the idea being to create an event in which the beauty of the objects would compete with that of the women in attendance.

Objects and statues from Antiquity, exceptional fine furniture, masterful paintings, the decorative arts and art jewels are among the brilliant works being showcased in a spectacular décor created by interior designer Nathalie Crinière.

This year the Biennale brings together 120 antique dealers and four houses of jewellery from France and abroad, taking visitors on a journey into other worlds in original and highly creative stands. In a bright white setting replete with vegetation the Galerie Chenel, specialised in archaeology and with a predilection for Ancient Rome, is presenting, among other works, a Roman-worked marble statue of Silenus, the tutor of Dionysus, dating back to the first century B.C. The Galerie Gabrielle Laroche is showing a resplendent Enthroned Virgin and Child from the second half of the 12th century from Auvergne, France where the cult of the Virgin was very ancient.

The Versailles based Antique dealer Galerie Pellat de Villedon is exhibiting for the first time at the Biennale and has re-created the



Opposite Page: The Throne of Wisdom presented by Galerie Gabrielle Laroche at the Biennale

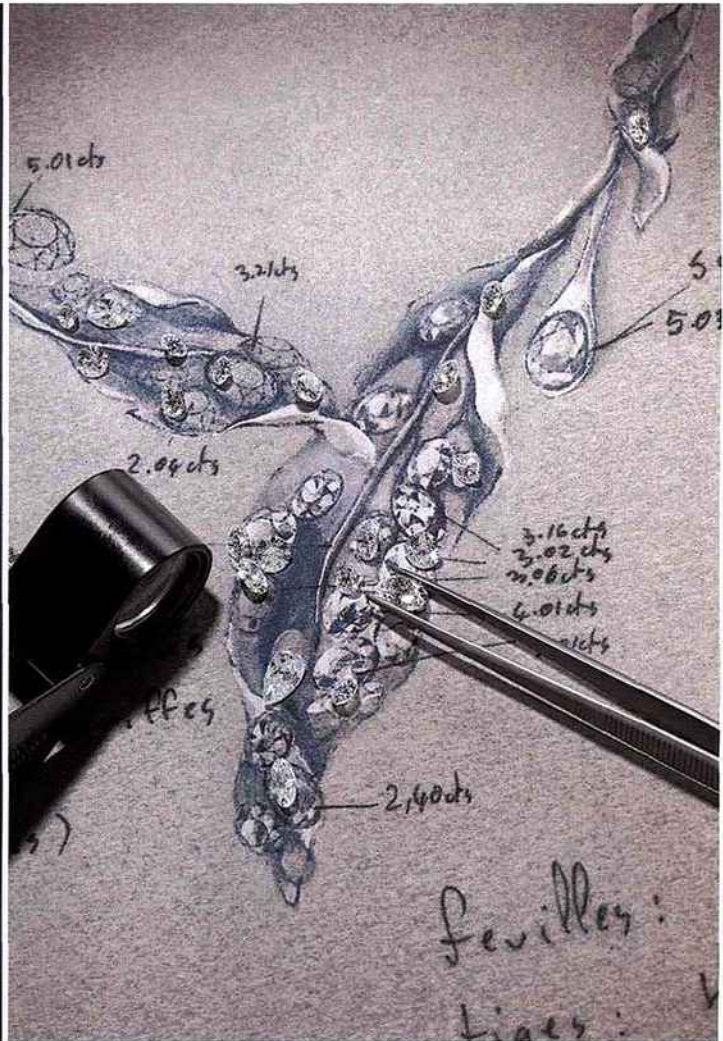
This Page: Painting of Krishna Shrinathji Nand Mahotsav presented by Kapil Jaiwala Gallery at *Parcours des Mondes*

atmosphere of an 18th century Pavillon de Plaisance with a full set of Louis XV woodwork and filled with some 40 objects including an 18th century travel toiletry cabinet. And participating for the 20th time is the Galerie Léage showcasing the French decorative arts of the 18th century with notably a chest of drawers attributed to Jacques Philippe Carel, a cabinetmaker to the Crown of France. And participating for the first time is the high jewellery house of Cindy Chao the Art Jewel. The house is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year and will reveal new pieces from its Black Label Masterpieces collection featuring

exceptional gemstones.

While at the Biennale visitors can take in three fine exhibitions being held at the show. A superb exhibition of 18th century French painting is being presented by the State Hermitage Museum of Saint Petersburg, one of the most prestigious museums in the world. Entitled *A Century of French Elegance. Masterpieces of the 18th Century*, the show brings together 35 exceptional works of art, some of which are being presented for the first time.

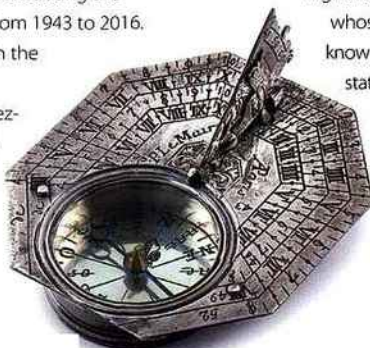
The Geneva-based Foundation of Haute Horlogerie will be presenting over 100



exceptional timepieces in an exhibition entitled The Mastery of Time, which traces the history of time measurement from the sundial to contemporary complicated mechanisms.

Meanwhile, France's Mobilier National, the national furnishings institution, which today conserves, repairs and maintains some 80,000 items of furniture and textiles, is presenting a show called Tradition and Audacity. It showcases 16 pieces demonstrating the evolution of furnishings from 1943 to 2016.

Over on the Left Bank in the Saint-Germain-des-Près neighbourhood, Le Rendez-Vous is bringing together a prestigious parade of pieces as 10 galleries and antique dealers present in their galleries or in



host galleries major works.

The Galerie Christian Deydier is presenting a show entitled Treasures of the Sands of Central Asia with a museum-quality collection of silks from the 7th and 8th centuries of the Sogdian, an ancient civilisation of an Iranian people who were known for their unique method of weaving textiles. The Galerie Bernard Dulon is revealing the mysterious world of the Tsogo people of the

highlands of central Gabon and whose art work remains little known. Masks, reliquaries and statuettes of the Tsogos, regarded as the Greeks of Gabon, associated with the Bwiti ritual are on show.

The New York and Swiss based house of Phoenix Ancient Art

is presenting a show at the Galerie Rauchfeld entitled Mnemonic: From Chirico and Antiquity, which intriguingly juxtaposes the neo-Classical paintings of the 1920s of Giorgio de Chirico with marble statues, mosaic bronze weapons and vases from Ancient Greece and Rome. Jean Tinguely and an exceptional ensemble of his whimsical sculptures from the 1960s are on show at the Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois.

And the Galerie Christian Deydier is welcoming a show of fine jewels entitled Studies in Shapes from the Place Vendôme jeweller Reza. The house is known for its artistic approach to creating works that are often one of a kind using the house's extensive collection of precious gemstones.

In the same neighbourhood as Le Rendez-Vous, the Parcours des Mondes, the international show devoted to the tribal art, is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. The show takes the visitor on a journey into a metamorphosed and mysterious



Opposite Page (clockwise from top left): Corn Goddess from Mexico presented by Galerie Dodier at Parours des Mondes; Black Label Masterpiece Winter Leaves Cindy Chao Necklace Sketch presented at the Biennale; Portable 18th century sundial presented at the Fondation of Haute Horlogerie's The Mastery of Time exhibition at the Biennale **This Page (clockwise from top left):** Roman-worked first century B.C. marble statue of Silenus presented by Galerie Chenel at the Biennale; Wackel-Baluba by Jean Tinguely presented by Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois at Le Rendez-Vous; Eighteenth century chest of drawers attributed to Jacques Philippe Caré presented by Galerie Léage at the Biennale

Paris peopled with sculptures from faraway lands, statues of the ancestors, bird masks, tipis and thangkas and more. This annual journey into the diversity of the arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania showcases exceptional pieces from some 80 carefully selected galleries and exhibitors in the neighbourhood and from around the world and the event features some 20 thematic exhibitions ranging from adornments to everyday utensils and tools. Sculptures from China's ancient Chu Kingdom, a corn Goddess, and a netsuke from the island of Honshu in Japan are all on the agenda.

Galerie Laurent Dodier is presenting Messengers in Stone-Pre-Colombian America, featuring stone objects from Peru, Central America and Mexico. Meanwhile, the aptly entitled Hair is being played out at Yann Ferrandin offering a glimpse into the rich universe of accessories and adornments for the

hair, attesting to the ancient and modern art that is coiffure. Some 100 pieces from Africa, Asia, Oceania and North America are being showcased.

Galerie Flak for the occasion has assembled an exceptional ensemble of shaman masks and sculptures from Alaska and Siberia. And on an adventurous note Michael Evans Tribal Art

is presenting rare objects of the tiny island of Niue in the south Pacific. Dubbed Savage Island by Captain Cook who sojourned there in 1774, Niue earned a nearly mythical reputation for the warlike behaviour of its inhabitants.

The exhibitions are hosted in and by art galleries throughout the Beaux-Arts quarter of the Saint-Germain-des-Près neighbourhood.

BIENNALE DES ANTIQUAIRES
September 10 through to September 18
Grand Palais
Ave Winston Churchill (8th)
11am to 8pm and until 11pm on the 15th

LE RENDEZ-VOUS
September 10 through to 24
Rues de Seine, Jacob, Jacques Callot,
des Beaux-Art, Paris (6th)
For all participating galleries visit
<http://lerendezvous.paris>

PARCOURS DES MONDES
September 6 through to 11
Rues des Beaux-Arts, Bonaparte,
de Seine, Jacques Callot, Mazarine,
Guénégaud, Visconti, Jacob,
de l'Echaudé and Saint-Benoit,
Paris (6th) Wed-Sun 11am to 7pm,
3pm-10pm on the 6th, until 6pm
on the 8th, until 9pm on the 10th,
and until 6pm on the 11th
For all participating galleries visit
www.parcours-des-mondes.com