



Lawrence Fine Art, East Hampton, N.Y.



From Russia With Art Gallery, Cambridge, Mass.



Post Impressionist Gallery, San Francisco



McGowan Fine Art, Concord, N.H.



Bowersock Gallery, Provincetown, Mass., and Mount Dora, Fla.



Martha Richardson Fine Art, Boston


Review and Photos by
Antiques and The Arts Weekly
Andrea Valluzzo, Assistant Editor

International Fine Art Show Sees Strong Sales, New Collectors

BOSTON, MASS. — Front and center at the 18th annual Boston International Fine Art Show, Marjorie Strider’s painting “The Invitation” depicts a vivacious young woman holding one well-manicured fingernail painted bright red to her equally lush lips, as if considering Frederick Gelb’s bronzes, “The Sun and the Moon” and “Ocean

Mother” mounted on pedestals in front of her. The juxtaposition of Pop and the sculptural in Howard Shapiro’s booth, Lawrence Fine Art, East Hampton, N.Y., is perhaps a fitting metaphor for the show overall that has become well established in the art world and consistently draws buyers in with its tasteful and

clever mix of art dealers showing a wide range of offerings. Choice Nineteenth and Twentieth Century paintings in lovely gilt frames, be they landscapes, still lifes or portraits, vied for attention with larger-than-life contemporary works of art with bold swaths of color and a modern bent.

“Our sales were very strong this year, across the board from historic to contemporary,” said Tony Fusco, who manages the show with Robert Four (Fusco + Four). The November 13–16 show at The Cyclorama attracted good crowds all weekend long, but particularly on the show’s final day, Sunday.

“Sunday was particularly strong with people coming back and new people,” Fusco said, noting the gate was up ten percent that day over last year. “It was a real buying crowd. There were sales every day, but Sunday was the day people came back and made decisions.”

Fusco said Shapiro told him he had a good showing overall but just before closing, approached him to relate that he had just made a “fourth-quarter play.” Reportedly, the two prints dealers here: William Greenbaum Fine Prints, Rockport, Mass., and Jeannot R. Barr, Drawings & Prints, Northport, N.Y., also did well. Many other dealers went home happy, Fusco said, including Les Enfants du Paradis, Parma, Italy, which he said sold about seven or eight paintings.

New this year at the show was a New Collectors Salon Friday night that was well attended, while the show’s preview gala Thursday night, November 13, was a benefit for the Friends of the Boston Park Rangers Mounted Unit.



William Greenbaum Fine Prints, Rockport, Mass.



Renjeau Galleries, Natick, Mass.



Vose Galleries, Boston



Marine Arts Gallery, Salem, Mass.



M.M. Ciciovan, Montreal, Canada



Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor, Maine



Brock & Co., Concord, Mass.



Les Enfants du Paradis, Parma, Italy



Winston and Mystic, two of the horses in Boston's Park Rangers Mounted Unit, were on hand during the show's preview gala.

Two of the unit's six horses, Winston and Mystic, along with the rangers who ride them, were outside on the walkway at the show's entrance to greet attendees. The Friends group was established in 2008 after financial constraints prompted the city to contemplate cutting the mounted unit that patrols the nine parks of the Emerald Necklace. This year, the Friends need to raise \$100,000 to ensure the Mounted Unit continues to operate.

"It's a very established show. We see a lot of the same people coming back every year, this year our new collectors night was very popular, we saw a lot of new faces, which is important to all of us," Fusco said.

The show managers also broke new ground here, affording several artists a solo exhibition with their own booths at the show, including local artist David Brega and Montreal's M.M. Ciciovan. Fusco said both artists did well and Ciciovan already inquired about returning here in the spring.

Spied in the booth of Garvey Rita Art & Antiques, West Hartford, Conn., were Eric Sloane's "Dutch Barn, N.Y. State," an oil on Masonite and contemporary artist David Wissler's "Sun," an oil on linen.

Standouts at Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, included William Partridge Burpee's oil on canvas, "Island Pier," and Robert Henri's "Fog-Monhegan," a 1911 oil on wood panel.

Highlighting contemporary works were Gold Gallery, showcasing several collage and resin works by Jay Kelley, while London gallerist Quantum Contemporary Art, specializing in figurative paintings and drawings, showed Hazel Mountford's "Tumbling Hare," an oil on gesso on a wood panel cut into an irregular hexagon shape that was paired with Mountford's "One Bee Left," a cluster of 14 diminutive panels.

Century Guild, Chicago, Ill., did well with rare Viennese

Secessionist works, with sales that included Gustav Klimt's iconic "The Kiss," while across the aisle Albert Shahinian, who returned to the show after an absence of some years, reportedly did well, according to Fusco. Highlights in the Rhinebeck, N.Y., dealers' booth were Christie Scheele's "Hill beyond Hill," an oil on linen comprising three panels, and James Cox's "Ice in the Creek/Red Fox," also an oil on linen.

Greater Boston gallerist Nicki Solomon Fine Art found the show engaging. "The show brought us new buyers finding exactly what they are looking for. New, promising relationships were developed," she said after the show.

Boston has no shortage of fine art galleries and several of its mainstays are longtime veterans at this show. Adelson Galleries found buyers appreciative of its Jamie Wyeth works on offer, while Vose Galleries prominently featured Warren Prosperi's "Museum Epiphany VI," a 50-by-33-inch oil on canvas by the student of Optical Natu-

ralism, a technique developed by Caravaggio; and Donald Demers' "Upon the Shore," for whom the ocean is a central theme in his works. Martha Richardson Fine Art devoted one wall to portraiture, while also featuring choice works by Anthony Thieme, Elizabeth Thacher and Virginia Berresford. Newbury Fine Arts showcased France Jodoin's "A Shade Upon My Mind," and Charles Dwyer's "The Artist's Muse."

William Vareika Fine Arts, Ltd, Newport, R.I., recently discovered a pair of fine portraits by Gilbert Stuart and cleaned them up in time to make their debut here, while a highlight at Marine Arts Gallery, Salem, Mass., was George Loring Brown's "View of the Ruins on the Sea Shore at Porto d'Anzio with "Distant View of Nettuno Looking Toward Terracina," an 1850 oil on canvas.

For more information, www.fineartboston.com or 617-363-0405. The next Fusco + Four show will be Boston Design Week March 19-29 and AD 20/21 March 26-29.

Adelson Galleries, Boston



William Vareika Fine Arts, Ltd, Newport, R.I.



Century Guild Gallery, Chicago, Ill.



Newbury Fine Arts, Boston



Albert Shahinian Fine Art, Rhinebeck, N.Y.