



THE EUROPEAN FINE ART FAIR 2012

Jubilee edition

The leading international fair for arts and antiques celebrates its 25th edition in 2012. Apollo previews this year's highlights at TEFAF Maastricht

WRITER SUSAN MOORE

1

Angelica and Medoro, c. 1587

Simone Peterzano (c. 1535–99)

Oil on canvas, 154.8×194cm

Galerie Canesso

A native of Bergamo, Peterzano claimed to have trained with Titian in Venice, but his works suggest rather a fusing of the grand Venetian style of Tintoretto and Veronese with the expressive naturalism of his native Lombardy. On his return to Milan he was recognised as one of the city's pre-eminent painters, with the painter, poet and art theorist Giovanni Paolo Lomazzo dedicating poems to his more notable works. Lomazzo penned an effusive tribute to this account of Ariosto's famous eloping lovers Angelica and Medoro – the latter wounded by a spiteful Cupid. Caravaggio was the artist's most illustrious pupil.



2

2

Dike and Street Lamps, 1909

Léon Spilliaert (1881–1946)
Chinese ink, colour pencil wash and wax
crayon on paper, 74.6×59.9cm
Patrick Derom Gallery

Although born 20 years after the leading Symbolists, the predominantly self-taught Spilliaert adopted their aesthetic nonetheless, experimenting with different media, usually on paper, to explore a theme of loneliness and desolation – as well as all the possibilities of black. Spilliaert particularly admired Edgar Allan Poe, and this characteristically haunting and atmospheric landscape is part of a series of nocturnes that he produced in his native Ostend in around 1908. Almost monochrome, every element is reduced, abstracted or dissolved by the enveloping elemental damp of sea and air.



3

3

The Humboldt Cup, c. 1648–53

The Netherlands
Carved coconut and silver, ht 29cm
Kunstammer Georg Laue

In 1636 Johan Maurits van Nassau (1604–79) was appointed Governor of the Dutch colony in Brazil, and during his tenure employed scientists and artists to study this new terrain. One of them, Albert Eckhout (c. 1607–65), made ethnographic portraits of Brazilian cannibals and these were used as the source for the carving on this coconut cup, commissioned by Johan Maurits on his return. By 1793, it was in the possession of the great German naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859). It then passed to his close friend, the young army officer Reinhard von Haeften (1772–1803), in whose family it remained for over two centuries.



4

4

Portrait head of a thinker, early 3rd century BC

Greece, Hellenistic
Marble, ht 30cm
Cahn International AG

Veristic rather than idealised portraits were created in the early 3rd century BC for, among others, the Athenian poet Menander and for Seleukos I Nikator, successor to Alexander the Great and founder of the Seleukid dynasty. No identity has yet been suggested for this finely modelled head, but its impressive characterisation suggests a man of intellect and substance. With his swirling layers of short locks, a small cleft chin, careworn features and narrowed, hooded – possibly even sightless – eyes, establishing his identity may well prove possible. His nose and upper lip are restored.