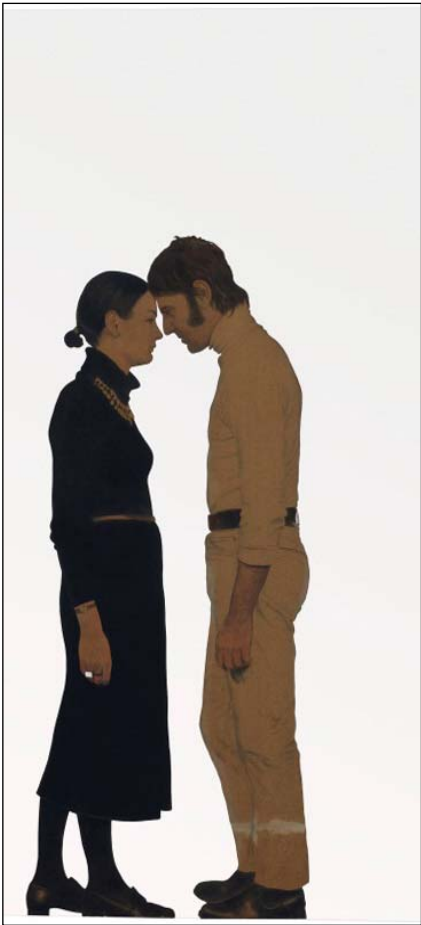




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Arte Povera Collection On View At Christie's Before London Auction On February 11



Michelangelo Pistoletto, "Lei e Lui — Maria e Michelangelo," 1968, painted tissue paper on polished stainless steel (\$980,000–\$1.3 million).

NEW YORK CITY and LONDON — A collection that explores key works of Arte Povera, its roots and its influence on art today, will be sold at auction at Christie's King Street, London, salesroom on February 11. Prior to this auction, the works are on exhibition at Christie's, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, 20th floor, in New York City until January 26.

Arte Povera artists filled galleries with animals and decaying matter decades before Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin. With its idea that humble, "poor," everyday materials — both natural and manufactured — can be transformed into powerful, evocative works of art, Arte Povera transformed the landscape and language of contemporary art in the late 1960s and 1970s and has become one of the most influential art movements of the past half century, exerting a profound impact on art around the world, including conceptual art, minimalism and the YBAs.

"Eyes Wide Open: An Italian Vision" presents artists Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni and Fausto Melotti, along with Michelangelo Pistoletto, Alighiero Boetti, Mario Merz, Luciano Fabro, Giulio Paolini, Pino Pascali, Giuseppe Penone and Emilio Prini. This collection also investigates Arte Povera's legacy in the work of artists as diverse as Cy Twombly, Olafur Eliasson, Anish Kapoor, Tony Cragg, Rosemarie Trockel and Thomas Schütte.

Carefully assembled over the past 25

years by an Italian couple, this single-owner collection encompasses 109 works by a range of celebrated artists. The title "Eyes Wide Open" reflects the collectors' intense vision — one focused on Arte Povera that also encompasses international contemporary art — and works will be presented in the catalog as seen through the collectors' eyes. The couple have written a text for every work that talks of their emotions in acquiring each work and living with it.

A highlight of the collection is "Lei e Lui — Maria e Michelangelo" (\$980,000–\$1.3 million) by Michelangelo Pistoletto, a key member of the Arte Povera movement. This life-sized, double-portrait "mirror-painting" depicts the artist and his lifelong companion and artistic collaborator Maria Pioppi facing each other in an act of intimacy and union. It also reflects the intimate relationship of the collectors and their passionate search for art. Executed at the beginning of 1968, this work was a centerpiece of one of Pistoletto's most famous exhibitions at the Galleria L'Attico, Rome, in 1968. The reflections of light and movements triggered by the viewers are key elements of Pistoletto's paintings on mirrors, which remain some of his best-known works and are icons of Arte Povera.

Further highlights of the sale include a monumental shaped canvas by Pino Pascali titled "Torso di negra al bagno" (estimate on request), a mesmerizing totem of femininity that appears to have erupted

from the floor. Hovering between abstraction and figuration, this monolithic shiny black torso of a woman in a bathing costume, 6 feet high, also asserts itself as an anti-monument and alternative to the European tradition of a white Venus rising from the waves. Surrounded at its base by cartoonlike, linear curves that simulate ripples around her, this black "Venus" created in 1964 is a masterpiece of Pascali's tragically brief career.

Another key work is Luciano Fabro's striking sculpture "Piede (Foot)," with its startling contrast between a giant, clawlike polished bronze foot and its thin, light, towering column of radiant blue silk reaching to the ceiling (\$1.3/1.9 million). Alighiero Boetti, the subject of a major survey in 2012 at Tate Modern, the Reina Sofia and MoMA, is represented by several important works, including his "Mappa" from 1979 (\$735,000–\$1 million) — part of the famous series of embroidered world maps that he made between 1971 and 1994 in partnership with Afghan women weavers living in Kabul and later as refugees in Peshawar.

The Italian postwar section of the sale includes iconic work by Alberto Burri, a major influence on Arte Povera. His work explores materials and their transformation through processes such as chemical reactions or burning, as in his "Combustione plastica" (\$2.7/3.6 million).

For additional information, www.christies.com or 212-636-2000.

Sanford Alderfer Companies Expands Fine Art Division

HATFIELD, PENN. — Sanford Alderfer Companies has expanded its fine art division and welcomes the addition of Paul Gratz to the staff. Gratz said, "The Sanford Alderfer Companies was one of the first auction companies in the country to promote and auction artwork by Pennsylvania Impressionists. Over the years they

have set records for many New Hope School artists, and Pennsylvania art and antiques. They also excel at auction in the areas of American art and fine art and collectibles. I have worked with them for many years and now look forward to helping them build and expand their fine art department. The Sanford Alderfer Companies

hold honesty and customer service to high standards as I have at Gratz Gallery."

Gratz is owner and head conservator of the Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio, located in Doylestown, Penn. Gratz Gallery specializes in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century American paintings, specifically those by artists of the New Hope School, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Ten. Gratz Gallery has promoted and represented American artists with many exhibitions and publications for over three decades. Gratz was a founding member of the Society of Gilders.

Gratz Gallery has sold to and

represented many museums throughout the United States. The gallery has also supported and assisted in many exhibitions and shows by other galleries and fine art museums. The Conservation Studio has specialized in the conservation of oil paintings and gilt frames for more than 30 years.

Gratz's formal training began at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and was developed through various apprenticeships with some of the nation's most respected art conservators. While at the academy, Gratz studied with conservator Louis Sloane and artist Joseph Amarotico and instructor Arthur DeCosta. Since

1982, Paul Gratz has provided his services to museums, historical societies, universities, churches and many private collectors.

The Sanford Alderfer Companies has been a leading auction company on the East Coast in the handling of fine arts appraisal and auction. "We have known Paul for quite a few years and we are pleased he is joining us in the capacity of sales associate. His integrity and love for the industry brings great value to both our clients and our customers" said Sandy Alderfer.

For general information, www.alderferauction.com or 215-393-3000.

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Jean-Luc Baroni Brings Master Paintings & Drawings To Carlton Hobbs Gallery

NEW YORK CITY — Jean-Luc Baroni Ltd, London, will present an exhibition of masterworks during Master Drawings Week, January 25–February 1, at the Carlton Hobbs Gallery, 60 East 93rd Street. Included in the exhibition are 55 rarely seen and important Old Master paintings and drawings from the Sixteenth to the early Twentieth Centuries.

"What makes this exhibition especially exciting is that there are a number of long-unseen or newly rediscovered works — by Ligozzi and Reni, to name two — that have been either unrecorded or were thought to have been lost or destroyed long ago," says Jean-Luc Baroni. "In particular, I am proud to be unveiling a Fra Bartolommeo drawing that has not been before the public in nearly two centuries."

Some highlights of the exhibition are: "The Allegory of Virtue, Love Defending Virtue Against Ignorance and Prejudice," an 11-foot-tall oil on canvas by Jacopo Ligozzi, of late Sixteenth–early Seventeenth Century, Florence. Commissioned by Grand Duke Francesco I De'Medici, of Tuscany, in 1584–85, for the Casino di San Marco in Florence, the size, quality and subject matter, as well as its provenance, confirm that this allegory



Fra Bartolommeo (Italian, 1472 (?)-1517), "Head of a Friar Wearing a Cowl," black chalk and stumping, heightened with white and with a partial outline in red-brown chalk.

is probably the most important picture ever painted by Ligozzi.

"Head of a Friar Wearing a Cowl" by Fra Bartolommeo is in black chalk and stumping, heightened with white and with a partial outline in red-brown chalk. This drawing has not been on the market since 1830 and for most of its existence was wrongly attributed to Raphael.


Shown in the United States and offered for sale for the first time, "Portrait of Luigino Gianchetti as a Violin Player" by Roman artist Antonio Mancini (1852–1950). John Singer Sargent said of Mancini, "I have met in Italy the greatest living painter."

Other works by Guido Reni, Edgar Degas, Johann Heinrich Fuseli and early drawings by Lucien Freud will also be on view.

Baroni said, "Those who come to the exhibition will not be disappointed. They will encounter a wide range of astonishing works, some with fascinating backstories. These works are by important artists, and by lesser known ones as well, but they all meet the same criteria: the highest quality, condition and beauty I can find and afford."

For additional information, www.jlbaroni.com, www.carltonhobbs.com or 212-423-9000.

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