



of London gallery **Osborne Samuel**, Peter Osborne, commented that they were certainly doing better than last year, having already sold a work by Alex Katz for £300,000, and works by Henry Moore, Lynn Chadwick and David Bomberg, all going for between £50,000 and £100,000. "The quality, interest and enthusiasm of the buyers this year has been remarkable," he said. Among their sales was *Sitting Watchers I*, 1975, an 8½in (22in) high bronze by Chadwick (1914-2003), cast by the Lypiatt Foundry in 1978.

**Right:** this 18th century marble bust of *Young Commodus* was sold by **Tomasso Brothers Fine Art** to an American private collector with an asking price in the region of £95,000 at *Masterpiece*. The bust was formerly in the collection of Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood (1882-1947), of Harewood House, Yorkshire, and appears to be based on the bust of Commodus c.175-177AD found at the Villa of Antoninus Pius in Lanuvium and now in the Museo Capitolino. It formed part of the Tomassos' Pompeian-themed stand at *Masterpiece*, devoted to models after the antique.



for the trade this year was "the presence of noted co museum curators".

While antiquities, jewel and Contemporary art are strengths of the event – the profile of ceramics dealers weak area this year – Old are noticeably lacking, with **Fine Paintings, Colnagh Thuillier** among the galle who have dropped out of past couple of years to pu opportunities at this time.

However, I'd question v omission matters too muc week collectors can have t the auctions and in the ga it coincides with the newly *London Art Week*, a grow between *Master Paintings Master Drawings and Scu* as the dealers of Mayfair collaborate with a week o shows. The combination s well in tandem.

On this subject, Nazy V they had worked in partn organisers of *London Art* we can co-exist, we don't offer the same thing. I thi great buzz this year in Lor between all the events th many collectors visited all

■ *Masterpiece London* June 26 to July 2, 2014.

## Double hon in Pimlico

ON Wednesday, July 17, I **Kate Thurlow** and **Mari** host a summer open eve 5.30-8.30pm at their shc

Kate, who specialises i and Continental furniture art, is based at **Gallery F** Moreton Street, while co and folk art dealer Martir been at 44 Moreton Stre shop, since earlier this ye showing new stock.

## masterpiece london

continued from page 21

Demand from Russia was particularly strong at this year's Old Masters sales and that strength translated to *Masterpiece*, as did Indian interest alongside some Chinese visitors at the fair.

**Philip Hewat-Jaboor**, chairman of *Masterpiece*, said that representatives from a large number of both American and European museums also attended.

**Aktis Gallery**, a London-based but Russian-owned operation specialising in 20th century European art by Russian émigré artists, exhibited a mix of 20th century paintings and works on paper by Russian and Chinese non-conformist émigré artists.

"It was a good move as our Russian clients were interested in the Chinese pictures and vice versa," said director Anna Chalova, who sold five works priced between five and six figures, including pieces by the Chinese artists Zao Wou-Ki (1921-2013) and Chu The-Chun (b.1920). The gallery sold to buyers from Europe and Asia, and were pleased with the number of international visitors who came to their stand, particularly those attracted by the new Hong Kong pavilion this year.

"Many of our own guests were Russian and first-time visitors to the fair," said Anna. "They enjoyed the experience – the great diversity and quality of what was on offer – and the fact that they could enjoy a comfortable lunch or coffee."

There was a large turnover among the 163 exhibitors this time, with 52 first timers including Brussels tribal art dealers **Patrick & Ondine Mestdagh**. They were pleased with the fair and reported lots of interest with some sales, including that of a Lei Niho Palao-type Hawaiian necklace and a Murray River wooden Australian shield.

"Sales are never guaranteed from a first

time (at a fair) as we had no comparison point," said Patrick.

Five- and six-figure sales were apparently strong across the categories – those in the seven figures, meanwhile, were left to the salerooms.

The effort that exhibitors made with stand design really helped the overall look of the event, and one of the exhibitors who offered something a little different in the form of a collection of Martin Brothers art pottery were **Joshua and Raphael Sinai of Sinai & Sons**. Instead of setting these eccentric productions within the expected context of the English Arts &

Crafts tradition, they mixed them with European 19th and 20th century works of art, which kept the look fresher, contained behind an eye-catching backlit stained glass partition.

A little different from much of the fare at *Masterpiece*, it caught the eye of many visitors, including (reportedly) the editor of American *Vogue*, **Anna Wintour**, a keen tennis fan who visited the fair while in town for Wimbledon.

Speaking after the fair, Joshua Sinai said the atmosphere of the fair had been "vibrant" and the overall look "superb". He added that the importance of the fair

Over 25 years, one dedicated private collector reunited this set of 12 18th century Chinese Huanghuali chairs, once part of a larger group of Chinese export furniture possibly commissioned by Sir Hugh Gough (1708-74), a wealthy trade merchant, during his travels to China. The set had been completely split but the collector reunited these 12, of the original set of 16 plus two armchairs, and they were shown for the first time in public at *Masterpiece* by **Mallett** and were sold, with an asking price in excess of £500,000, to a private collector.

