

Richards joins Charles Ede to boost fine art sales

by Stewart Cumiskey

London dealership Charles Ede is expanding its repertoire and has brought in James Richards to launch its new approach at this year's *Frieze Masters*.

The business has been known for primarily focusing on ancient art, but it was not always that way. The gallery was originally established by Charles Ede himself as Folio Fine Art, a multi-faceted gallery hosting various exhibitions across different fields and reflecting Ede's interests as a co-founder of the Folio Society in 1947.

In recent years, the firm has enjoyed several collaborations with Contemporary art galleries and artists, both at art fairs and through exhibitions held at the gallery.

Senior staff had long held the desire to bring this expertise in-house and return to the original values of the gallery, expanding the offering to complement the gallery's established emphasis on ancient works of art.

James Richards has been appointed to assist the existing directors Martin Clist and Charis Tyndall in realising this vision.

The focus will now widen to include, alongside ancient sculpture, British and European paintings, works on paper, and photography from the 19th and early 20th



Left: James Richards has joined the Charles Ede dealership.

centuries. Richards formerly served as the gallery manager and head of research at the Daniel Katz Gallery, gaining extensive experience in dealing with 19th and early 20th-century paintings and works on paper as well as sculpture.

Prior to this role, he spent several years at Christie's as a picture specialist, focusing on works on paper, and later worked as head of British and Continental pictures at Christie's South Kensington.

He will be supported in this new role by existing fellow director Clist, whose own background includes work in the field of Modern and Contemporary fine art. Clist

held senior positions at the Whitechapel Gallery under Nicholas Serota, as well as at Waddington Galleries, in Cork Street, and later with Karsten Schubert, before moving into the ancient art world.

In the mix

The gallery's new direction is set to coincide with *Frieze Masters 2024* where a mixed booth of works both ancient and modern will be showcased.

This display will feature a pair of Romano-British mosaics, discovered in the 19th century and never before offered on the market. Shown alongside these will be select artworks, spanning the Romantic to Modern periods.



Jewels by Frederick James Partridge from the estate of Ella Naper have been donated by Wartski to the Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft. Shown **above** are a silver and amethyst floral brooch, two silver and horn buttons and a similar brooch and **below left**, a collection of eight Arts & Crafts carved wood buttons.

Wartski makes gift of Partridge Arts & Crafts jewellery after auction buy

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Ditching and established a summer school with his wife May in Branscombe.

Ella Naper, who had been taught by Partridge at the Camberwell School of Arts & Crafts from 1904-06, was a student there from c.1906-07. Living and working in Lamorna, Cornwall. She is perhaps best known today as the model for some of Laura Knight's best early works, including a nude study sold by Lay's in February 2021 for £105,000.

However, she was a talented

artist in her own right: skilled with the brush, the potter's wheel and at the bench as a jeweller and enameller.

Holman said: "I had the privilege of seeing these pieces for the first time with Ella Naper's niece while sitting in Ella's kitchen. I felt it was important that they were preserved as they had such a wonderful provenance, having belonged to someone who worked so closely with Fred and who was herself at the heart of an important artistic community."

The pieces include a mixed metal brooch set with amethysts, an enamelled silver and carved horn brooch with two buttons, a stained horn hair comb and a collection of wooden buttons. They were sold at Lay's in Lanner, Cornwall, in August 2023 for hammer prices between £225 for a carved and pierced horn hair ornament up to £880 for a plique-à-jour, purple sapphire and green garnet set brooch.



Records tumble at Paul Allen auctions

Christie's posted a spate of record prices at three New York sales from September 10-12 offering Paul Allen's extraordinary collection of scientific and technological items.

Among them was a new high for any computer, set when the late Microsoft co-founder's Cray-1 Supercomputer hammered at \$810,000 (£618,320) against a \$150,000-250,000 estimate. Known for its distinctive C-shaped design and standing over 6ft (1.8m) high, the unit was a pioneering piece of technology created by Seymour Cray in 1975. Only 17 units are believed to have survived, with this example the first to appear at auction.

The sale also set a record for an Apple-1 when a unit from company founder Steve Jobs' own office made \$750,000 (£572,520), while a new high for an IBM came when a 1960s control console sold at \$150,000 (£114,505).

While the top lot overall was a signed letter from Albert Einstein to President Franklin Roosevelt which made \$3.2m (£2.44m) – a record for a letter by the great scientist – the sale also included a First Class luncheon menu from the *Titanic* that fetched \$270,000 (£206,105), a record for any menu sold at auction.

Alex Capon

Above: Apple-1 computer from the desk of Steve Jobs, **\$750,000 (£572,520)** at Christie's.



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