

Dealers' Diary

The prime design destination

PAD London provides an eclectic selection for professionals and public alike

by Frances Allitt

From Classical busts to Contemporary furniture, PAD London is a chance for shoppers and decorators with deep pockets to snap up top pieces in design.

Set in Mayfair's Berkeley Square, it runs from September 30-October 6, coinciding with *Frieze* and *Frieze Masters* (October 3-6), the super-high-end art fairs in Regent's Park.

The growing set of events taking place during 'Frieze Week' features mostly Contemporary art.

But a range of opportunities remains to find more traditional pieces (such as the *British Art Fair* in Chelsea and the *Decorative Antiques & Fine Art Fair* in Battersea).

For its part, PAD, now in its 13th edition, remains the prime destination for design, its eclectic look targeting not only interior designers but also curators and the general public.

In sections

Exhibitors divide into eight sections: 20th century design and decorative arts, antiquities, Contemporary design, glass and ceramics, jewellery, Modern art, sculpture, and tribal art.

Highlights this year include a selection of furniture and lighting by the English architect and designer WAS Benson (1854-1924), offered by Parisian dealer **Oscar Graf**, who set up additional premises a few streets away from Berkeley Square earlier this year.

An assortment of historical Latin American design also appears by figures such as Brazilians Sergio

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Left: Gallery Mermoz brings this standing figure from the Diquis culture of pre-Columbian Costa Rica, 700-1200AD. Rendered from Grey trachyandesite with brown beige patina it measures 3ft (92cm) high and is offered for **€250,000**.

Right: offered for a price in the region of **£25,000**, this commode, c.1899, by William Arthur Smith Benson is available on the stand of **Oscar Graf**. It was made by Morris and Co in mahogany, satinwood veneer, gilt brass and verde antico marble.



Courtesy of Oscar Graf

Rodrigues (1927-2014) and Joaquin Tenreiro (1906-92) from **Side Gallery**, one of the newcomers to the fair.

Tribal art specialist **Lucas Ratton**, meanwhile, brings a Jukun shoulder mask from 19th century Nigeria. Masks like this are rare and their production ceased once the first examples were released on the art market. Linked to secret societies, they were used during agrarian rites, but their exact function remains unknown.

In all sections of the fair there are pieces occupying the area between art and design such as *Ring W* by Ai Wei Wei from **Elisabetta Cipriani** and an ancient Roman marble head of the Roman emperor Caracalla from **Phoenix Ancient Art Gallery**. The life-sized head still bears traces of original red and possibly black colour in the hair.

The event has sister fairs in Paris,

Geneva and Monaco (launched in April) and there is always an international feel. Dealers representing 14 countries are set to attend this year, including

Modernity from Sweden, **Didier Luttenbacher** of France and Switzerland's **Galerie von Vertes**.

Eleven newcomers will attend out of nearly 70 overall. The concentration of first-timers is in the jewellery section, where five dealers of the total 13 represented will debut, mostly offering Contemporary pieces.

Design specialist **Southern Guild** from Cape Town and glass and ceramics dealer **Thomas Fritsch** of France are also fresh faces.

The PAD Prize is presented for best Contemporary design, 20th century design and stand. It is awarded during the fair by a judging panel including Jasper Conran, Tom Dixon and Deyan Sudjic. ■

► pad-fairs.com

Right: this Cyclades cabinet by François Cante-Pacos is available from **Galerie Yves Gastou** for a five-figure sum.

