

## dealers' diary



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reports

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Above: local Buxton dealers **Steve Bentley Decorative Arts** will show a range of Arts & Crafts pieces at the *Buxton Antiques Fair*, including this oak fireside chair designed and made by Arthur Simpson of Kendal (1857-1922). The c.1925 chair is priced at £2950.

## Buxton is moving with the times

THE annual *Buxton Antiques Fair* at the Pavilion Gardens in the Derbyshire spa town is a stalwart of the UK's antiques fair scene in the Midlands and north.

Now in its sixth decade, **Cooper Fairs** have run the event since 2009 and several exhibitors have served more than 20 years here, including furniture dealer **Peter Bunting**, ceramics specialist **Roger de Ville**, and jeweller **Sheldon Shapiro**.

The *51st Buxton Antiques Fair* runs from May 14-17 and these old-timers (I'll be shot for calling them that) will be joined by eight debutants as the event, historically an inherently traditional preserve, moves towards including more 20th century material – a familiar story nowadays.

That said, **Guy Denmler Antiques**, a specialist in 18th and 19th century English furniture, and **Cantelo Antiques**, with period and decorative furniture, are among those taking part for the first time with traditional stock.

Other newcomers include: **Antiques by Design**, with an eclectic mix of antique, 20th century and Contemporary design; **Carnes Fine Art** (19th and 20th century paintings and period furniture); **Lynways** (vintage and retro glass and ceramics); **Peter McCarthy Antiques** (silver); **Richwood Fine Art** (19th and 20th century paintings) and **The Antiques Bazaar** (British art pottery, Art Nouveau silver, glass and jewellery).

■ cooperevents.com

# 20/21 fair promises Blitz

■ 75th anniversary of bombing campaign is an opportunity to focus on London's defiance

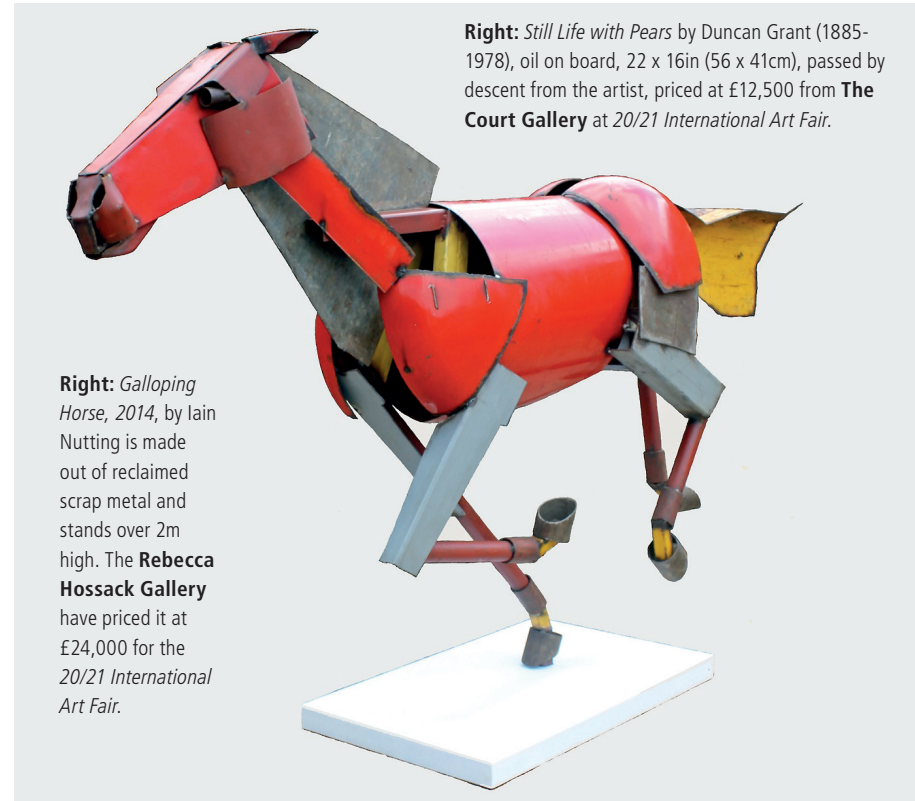
**THIS year marks the 75th anniversary of the Blitz, so a fitting time to reveal the works of an artist who recorded Londoners as they adapted, often ingeniously, to adversity.**

At an auction 23 years ago **Agi Katz** of the **Boundary Gallery** came across a portfolio of work by **Olga Lehmann** (1912-2001), a chance encounter that spawned a collection that will be shown in public for the first time at the *20/21 International Art Fair* from May 14-17 at the Royal College of Art, London.

The collection is previewed in detail **below**, but first to the fair itself, now in its ninth year and run by **Gay Hutson** and **Angela 'Bunny' Wynn** as an adjunct to their *20/21 British Art Fair*, held each September at the same venue.

The essential difference between these two events is that dealers may exhibit work by international as well as British artists at the May fair, dating either from the 20th or 21st century. As a result, it features pieces in all media by artists from France, Japan, Russia, Serbia and South Africa, to name a few.

As Gay points out when talking about the fair, it is "international in content, more than international in terms of galleries coming from other countries", and that differentiates it from the *Art15* fair at nearby Olympia. Now in its third



Right: *Still Life with Pears* by Duncan Grant (1885-1978), oil on board, 22 x 16in (56 x 41cm), passed by descent from the artist, priced at £12,500 from **The Court Gallery** at *20/21 International Art Fair*.

Right: *Galloping Horse*, 2014, by Iain Nutting is made out of reclaimed scrap metal and stands over 2m high. The **Rebecca Hossack Gallery** have priced it at £24,000 for the *20/21 International Art Fair*.

year, *Art15* moves from a late February slot to May 21-23 this year, the week after *20/21*, but *Art15's* exhibitor list is dominated by galleries based outside the UK, chiefly those from Asia.

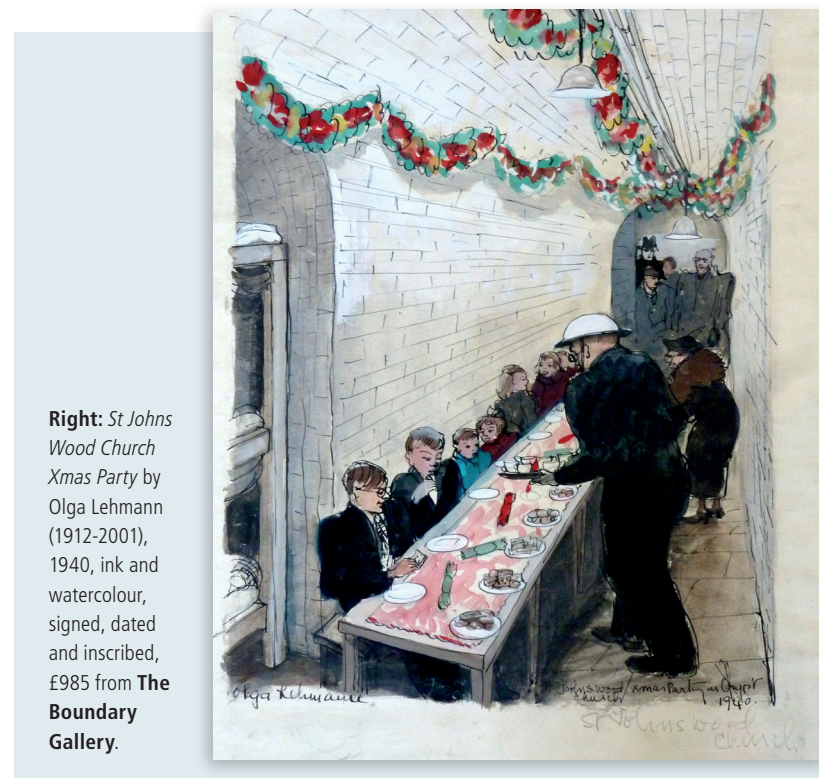
Gay tells me that London's **Jealous Gallery**, a new exhibitor at *20/21* this year, are the only exhibitor standing at both fairs to her knowledge.

"When the new dates for *Art15* were announced, I did think this could be a conflict for a handful of dealers, but this turned out not to be the case. The two fairs appeal to different audiences; you

could say that *20/21* is international with a small 'i', while *Art15* has a far more global appeal. However, London, being the amazing cultural hub that it is, has room for both.

"*Art15* in fact also clashes with the new *Photo London* fair at Somerset House – lucky Londoners!"

In 2014, for whatever reason, the *20/21 International Art Fair* was a little sticky in terms of business for some, but that doesn't seem to have deterred exhibitors and this year the organisers had no problem filling the 60 stands.



Right: *St Johns Wood Church Xmas Party* by Olga Lehmann (1912-2001), 1940, ink and watercolour, signed, dated and inscribed, £985 from **The Boundary Gallery**.

### OLGA LEHMANN (1912-2001)

Born in Chile to a French father and a Scottish mother, Olga Lehmann showed artistic flair from an early age and, at 16, moved to England after winning a scholarship to study at the Slade under Henry Tonks.

She specialised in theatre design, taught by Vladimir Polunin, and portraiture under Allan Gwynne-Jones. During the 1930s she gained a reputation for both.

The Whitechapel Gallery included her work in the exhibition *Mural and Decorative Painting in 1935* and the Tate Gallery in its *Mural Painting in Great Britain* show in 1939.

During the Second World War, Olga was commissioned to paint more than 100 murals depicting British life, such as scenes of sporting events and fairgrounds, to brighten the drab walls of the Bristol Aircraft Company's underground canteen for workers in Corsham, which later became the Burlington Complex. After the war, she became known as a costume designer for American TV and film, and painted the portraits of Charlton Heston and Marlene