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After Facing Unexpected Challenges, The Winter Show Roars Back To Life

After two long years of restrictions, New Yorkers are starved for a return to normal, familiar events that not only harken back to a bygone era of prosperity, but also offer a fresh perspective on an old formula. Last night's opening of The Winter Show gave dealers and collectors just that.

A benefit for East Side House Settlement, this year's Winter Show is being held in Spring, as Omicron forced a postponement of the original January date. In an ingenious last-minute pivot, the former Barney's flagship became the show's venue, as the Park Avenue Armory was already booked.



Jane Seymour MADISON MCGAW/BFA.COM

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“I think there was a lot of Barney’s withdrawal among New Yorkers, and this will give them the opportunity to walk the floors again. We’re in the men’s department here; I bought a necktie from some place in our booth,” mused Eric Baumgartner of Hirschl & Adler Galleries, whose star attraction is a pristine Edward Hopper watercolor.

Opening night was a huge success, attracting over 1,000 visitors, including Michael Bloomberg, Jane Seymour, Martha Stewart, Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch, and design-world stars Bunny Williams, Jamie Drake, Katie Ridder and Peter Pennoyer, and Alex Papachristidis. Proceeds from the Opening Night Party, and all net proceeds from The Winter Show ticket sales, support East Side House Settlement — a community-based organization serving the Bronx and northern Manhattan.



Diana Taylor, Michael Bloomberg MADISON MCGAW/BFA.COM

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“The show is crucial in helping East Side House Settlement revitalize their communities in northern Manhattan and the South Bronx,” said Helen Allen, Executive Director of The Winter Show. “The show is also helping to revitalize the dealers, the art community, the collector base, and the city of New York. By being in this iconic building, we are revitalizing Madison Avenue.”

The show is spread out over four floors, with a café on the second floor for weary shoppers to take a break. Some signage remains from the old Barney’s space, including “Sleepwear” and “Personal Shopping.”



Martha Stewart MADISON MCGAW/BFA.COM

“I really wish I could buy some shoes right now,” said one particularly nostalgic attendee.

Porcelain dealer Michele Beiny, in a shoe stand herself, was thrilled to have been exhibiting after a two year hiatus.

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“It’s genius to be here,” said Beiny. “There is a bit of a pop-up feel, but it’s been great, and all the dealers have been enthusiastic about it. They really pulled it off.”

Beiny was particularly pleased to be showing a pair of chargers from Meissen’s iconic Swan service.



Lizzie Tisch, Jonathan Tisch MADISON MCGAW/BFA.COM

“There was a lot of conversation among dealers before the fair – should we go, should we do it?” said Maison Gerard’s Director David Parker. “I feel a lot of energy – there has been interest, we are feeling it’s the right time, and we’re excited. I’m aware of planeloads of people coming in from out of town to New York because they want to come to this fair.”

Several beautiful Nancy Lorenz boxes were on view, as well as a wood carving from Mozambique by David Coffey specially commissioned for the fair, and rare furniture and accessories from the S.S. Normandie. Maison Gerard also featured wearable art bags by Luna Benai.

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In town to promote her new mystery show, “Harry Wild”, which launches on Acorn TV April 4, iconic actress Jane Seymour was taking it all in with her well-honed collector’s eye.

“I used to own a home in England that was over a thousand years old,” said Seymour. “I collected everything I could find, from the 15th Century and up. I also collect vintage clothes – I have clothes in my wardrobe from the 1700s.”



Andrew Oyen, Corey Damen Jenkins, Mark Ferguson MADISON MCGAW/BFA.COM

According to designer Papachristidis, the key to collecting is knowing how to mix antiques with more contemporary pieces, brilliantly done at Hyde Park Antiques.

“Look at how everything looks fresh, how gorgeous it is: the colors, the way they used the brackets in the corner, placing modern sculptures on the antique furniture - it’s chic and timeless, which is at it should be.”

For a peek at beautiful things, and a last look at Barney’s, you can see for yourself: The Winter Show runs through April 10.