



A Nevelson Revival & New York's Winter Show

Louise Nevelson is having a moment, with a show at Pace Gallery and jewelry by Celine; meanwhile at the Park Avenue Armory, a trove of treasures gets feted.



Julie Brener Davich

Winter Wonders

If you want to stay out of the cold and see a lot of art in one concentrated place, head to the Armory on 68th Street. The Winter Show, which cast off the mustiness of the word “Antiques” in its title several years ago, opened last night with champagne, caviar, and visits from **Michael Bloomberg**, **Nicky Hilton**, and **Martha Stewart**. Unlike for-profit fairs, The Winter Show was established more than 70 years ago by East Side House Settlement, a community-based organization in the Bronx, as a fundraising event.

Almost 80 dealers from nine countries brought treasures ranging from silver and jewelry to paintings and works on paper to furniture and ceramics. Some of the leading gallerists in their respective fields are on hand, including Koopman Rare Art for silver, Ronald Phillips Ltd. for English furniture, **Michele Beiny** for ceramics, and **Peter Finer** for arms and armor.

The fair is “vetted,” which is a term I’ve never really questioned over my 20 years in the art and design field. It turns out, as 18th century English antiques dealer **Clinton Howell** explained, the day before the fair opened to the public, the objects were examined by more than 120 specialists across 30 disciplines to confirm their authenticity, quality, and value, so buyers can have full confidence in what they are buying.



The Winter Show, New York (Photo: Matt Borkowski/Courtesy of BFA.com)

The first booth I happened upon when I previewed the fair yesterday was that of **Michael Goedhuis**, who specializes in Asian art. He shared with me the resurgence in interest in Japanese art, and showed me three rare 17th century bronze flower vessels that he's selling for \$9,000 to \$16,000.

(**Francesco Goedhuis**, his son, serves on Puck's board of directors.) At Finer's arms-and-armor booth, I learned that half his clients are female. "Weapons are functioning objects, but they're also art," he explained, pointing to a rare 17th-18th century Mughal dagger with a jade, ruby, and gold handle carved in the shape of a horse's head.

Beiny, meanwhile, specializes in porcelain and ceramics. Up until 10 years ago that meant Meissen and Sèvres, but now he also deals in modern and contemporary ceramics and glass by the likes of **Michael Dickey** and **Jennifer McCurdy**. In fact, the first red dot I saw at the fair was at Beiny's booth, for a purple copper glaze porcelain vase by **Brother Thomas Bezanson**. The most Instagrammable booth was that of first-time attendee Galerie Gmurzynska. The gallery brought a 6-foot-long wooden **Tom Wesselmann** sculpture of a smoking cigarette—a recurrent theme in the artist's practice—priced just under \$1 million.

The final booth that caught my eye was that of Didier Ltd., which specializes in jewelry by artists. Capitalizing on the current market craze for **Les Lalanne**, the Didiers brought an impressive selection of designs by **Claude Lalanne**, including some galvanized leaf pieces and a child's gold-and-diamond "papillon" bracelet purchased at Christie's 2023 Rothschild sale. The most remarkable object is a gold brooch cast from the lips of model **Veruschka**, whose midriff was also memorialized in gold by **Yves Saint Laurent**.

The Winter Show is on view for 10 days, accompanied by a full slate of events and programming. Don't miss my friend **Christine Donahue Kavanagh** of Sotheby's leading a panel discussion this Sunday afternoon about collection management and legacy planning.