



## THE ART NEWSPAPER

### Object lessons: from a Renaissance drawing unseen for a century to a work by Mali's pre-eminent photographer

Our pick of the highlights from coming fairs and auctions

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Shoemaker's trade sign for "H.W. Trickett", English (around 1900)  
Courtesy of Robert Young Antiques/Artmedia Press

#### Shoemaker's trade sign for "H.W. Trickett", English (around 1900)

With Robert Young Antiques at The Winter Show, Park Avenue Armory, New York, 21-30 January

Price: \$15,000

This trade sign, unusually painted on heavy canvas, was sourced by the London-based folk art specialist Robert Young directly from the Lancashire shoe factory for which it was made. It is the only trade sign that Young has found that includes a portrait of the "(presumably narcissistic) founder of the company", in this case, Henry Whittaker Trickett, known far and wide for his excellent slippers. But what makes a good sign? Being able to trace its origin, Young says—but "they also need to reflect their period and trade, to have strong graphics and retain original historic surface, inclusive of wear, weathering or incidental losses". Scale is important, too (this one is large, at 40 inches high) although signs of this size were usually painted on wooden panels, which inevitably tend to shrink, split or weather (creating what are known as "ghost signs"). This one, though, is in remarkably good, untouched condition, "explained by the fact that it was made to be hung inside the factory, rather than outdoors, where it would be exposed to the elements", Young says.