

## The Winter Show Opens To Strong Sales, Benefits East Side House

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I write about fashion and New York's social scene.



Elizabeth Lawrence, Alex Papachristidis, Bunny Williams, Stephen Sills  
BRE JOHNSON/BFA.COM

The Winter Show held its Opening Night Party on Friday, to the great delight of collectors and exhibitors from around the world. The upbeat energy was palpable, with memories of the 2022 show and its Covid-related problems in the rear-view mirror. 68 exhibitors once again filled the spacious aisles under Park Avenue Armory's soaring ceiling, as a live band played, and guests were treated to champagne, hors d'oeuvres and a caviar tasting. The evening was co-chaired by several iconic designers: Bunny Williams and Elizabeth Lawrence, Stephen Sills, and Alex Papachristidis. Proceeds from the opening night party will benefit East Side House Settlement, providing critical services and resources to over 14,000 residents of the Bronx and northern Manhattan.

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"East Side House is the owner and beneficiary of The Winter Show," said East Side House Executive Director Daniel Diaz. "The fair derived from a long ago Board member who received an inheritance of couture clothing that she then sold, and she donated the proceeds to East Side House. This act evolved into participation in other fairs, and eventually, in 1955, the launch of the Winter Antiques Show. Now, for 69 years, The Winter Show has been an annual and critical fundraiser for East Side House."

The co-chairs were each given a booth, and asked to put together vignettes using objects borrowed from different exhibitors. Williams' and Lawrence's booth was covered in hay, and the effect was whimsical.



Martha Stewart YVONNE TNT/BFA.COM

"I've come to this show since its beginning," said Williams, "and everything is very grand. I wanted to do the opposite, so I decided to build a barn. We paneled the booth in old barn siding, and we have a picture of a horse's rear end. But then I furnished it with a mixture of beautiful things, both antique and contemporary - a Venetian mirror, modern art, and a Regency Recamier."

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Inspired by a shot from a garden room in Stanley Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon*, Sills put together a booth with white trellised arches abutting impeccably trimmed hedges and a boxwood in a Versailles planter.

"I remembered a garden vignette that Karl Lagerfeld had done years ago, with gold statues against the green. It was so beautiful, and it stuck in my head. I went to Koopman Rare Art and they allowed me to use these exquisite vermeil English platters."

Papachristidis' booth was covered in a new, upbeat Manuel Canovas for Cowtan & Tout floral wallpaper that was an instant mood lifter for anyone walking by.

"I was inspired by the show's original heritage of being a wonderful American show," said Papachristidis. "I decided to showcase brown wood furniture, which I think is timeless and wonderful, and I used it in a fresh way, with a wonderful Arabian carpet from Doris Leslie Blau, and beautiful chairs and a breakfast table from Hyde Park Antiques."



Michael Bloomberg, Diana Taylor  
BRE JOHNSON/BFA.COM

Collectors and celebrities were out in force, as Martha Stewart, Michael Bloomberg and Diana Taylor, Lisa Jackson, Helen Lee Schifter, and Peter and Jamee Gregory perused the booths. Dealers were optimistic, and many had already done brisk business, including Michele Beiny, Steinitz, and Maison Gerard.

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"From what I can tell, people are shopping, and they're buying," said Sotheby's America's Chairman, Benjamin Doller. "I came here at five o'clock, I saw some beautiful things; I looked around again at seven, and a lot of them have red dots on them. I've also seen several dealers here that are new to the show. There is great energy this year."

From the Louis XIV and Napoleon portraits at Imperial Art, to the cloisonne Edouard Lievre table at Steinitz, to the exquisite jewelry at Simon Teakle Fine Jewelry, there was a huge variety for every taste at the Show.

"One of the joys of the show is speaking with the dealers, and learning about the things they have," said Honorary Design Co-Chair Wendy Goodman. "I'm constantly inspired and delighted. What a gift for all of us who come here."

The Winter Show runs through January 29.