

# ARTS & ANTIQUES

BY ABIGAIL FOERSTNER

## World's Fair

*A swanky mix of classic and offbeat antiques invade Navy Pier*

AT THE LAVISH ANTIQUESCHICAGO FAIR at Navy Pier this month, you'll find a hip, highbrow selection of exotic global finds you'd never find in Grandma's closet — everything from Chinese ceramics and Peruvian sculptures to Roman statuary and Zulu artifacts.

"People want cool stuff, not just brown wood furniture, when they shop for antiques," says Chicago antiques impresario Leslie Hindman, who co-produced this year's fair with Sandra Hindman (no relation), a professor emeritus of art history at Northwestern University.

The event, which runs May 7–11, offers both classical and funky, lesser-known pieces. There's a fireplace from Galerie

Pierre M. DuMonteil in Paris that is shaped like an open-mouthed hippo, Renaissance tapestries vividly embroidered with biblical scenes from Argentine dealer Lily Beer, and an avant-garde Danish table set whimsical enough to evoke memories of a childhood playhouse.

These days, trendy collectors are scooping up single, eye-catching pieces rather than buying formal collections of similar objects, which makes mixing and matching through centuries of silver, furnishings, fine arts, jewelry, ceramics and glass at the fair much easier than taking a world tour. The show prides itself on blue-chip rarities with stratospheric price tags, but prints, estate jewelry and decorative arts often start at about \$500 at many of the salon-sized booths in the Pier's Grand Ballroom and Lakeview Terrace.

Hindman and Hindman launched the upscale Pier show last year with the blessing of arts savants Maggie Daley, wife of the mayor, and Shirley Ryan, wife of Aon Corp. chairman and CEO Patrick Ryan. The debut fair attracted more than 50 dealers with revered reputations and unabashedly high-end wares. There are about 65 dealers this year, including two from Paris, one from Buenos Aires, 12 from England, one from Germany and one from Sweden.

## The Thrill of the Hunt

Bargain hunters, head to the flea market opening May 30 on the 1300 block of W. Randolph Street, a trendy, up-and-coming market district. It's the Chicago Antiques Market, and it will gather dealers from across the Midwest on the last Sunday of every month through Oct. 31. Chicago marketing mavens Sally Schwartz and Kathleen Finley recruited some 200 dealers to fill stalls at the market. Look for primitives, fine furnishings, vintage clothing, jewelry, jukeboxes and toys. Check out the vintage fashion show and the treasure hunt for kids scheduled for every market day. Early buying admission (8 a.m.) \$35; general admission (10 a.m.) \$8. Call 312/951-9939 or visit [www.chicagoantiquemarket.com](http://www.chicagoantiquemarket.com).

Leslie admits that attendance was somewhat light last year, though no one kept a ticket count. "But the right people came and they bought things," she says, including a \$95,000 kidney-shaped, English library desk and a \$100,000 pre-Columbian Huari feather panel.

And it's the "right people," strolling the aisles with checkbook in hand, that keep upscale merchants coming back. The Silver Fund of Manhattan and London sold "several hundreds of thousands of dollars last year," says William James, gallery co-director with Alastair Crawford. The two Brits specialize in sterling silver by Georg Jensen, the Danish craftsman who cast utilitarian bowls, candelabras and even cork screws with the artistry of fine sculpture.

The Silver Fund is shipping several Jensen masterpieces to Chicago to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of his firm, Georg Jensen Silversmithy. Look for the serving platter with dolphins entwined on the cover handle and a pair of botanic candelabras, their silver vines laden with grapes.

Jensen opened his first shop on fashionable Bredgade Street in Copenhagen, getting the firm rolling by crafting relatively inexpensive silver jewelry pieces that were so stunning high society mavens snapped them up in lieu of far more expensive gold pieces. "He was an innovator in silver jewelry," says James. While the candelabras cost \$85,000, the vintage jewelry sells for

