

## OLDING PICTURES

For the first time ever in the UK, an exhibition will chart The History of the Folding Screen, at the Autumn Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair, 3-8 October 2006

The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair 3-8 October will once again offer antiques for modern living at The Marquee, Battersea Park, London SW11. More than 100 Dealers in traditional and decorative antiques, accessories and C20th design gather to offer the UK's best selection of quirky and practical items for the home.



For the first time ever in the UK, a special exhibition will display the history of the folding screen – its nascence in the Far East, travelling via Indian trade routes to Europe, and how the original, delicately painted Japanese screens have been adapted by Western craftsmen to create versions made in carved and painted wood, leather, glass, textile, découpage, silk, paper, and 'japan' – the European lacquer.

Screens were used in houses grand and modest to decorate all types of room, as well as for practical purposes: keeping out draughts, or hiding away part of a room such as a washing or eating area.

The folding screen's fusion of applied and fine arts has been in and out of fashion, but never out of favour with designers, who continue to use antique designs or commission contemporary pieces. Screens, especially early Japanese ones, are also highly sought after by collectors.



Curated by Mark Aldbrook, co-author of *The Folding Screen* (Lund Humphries, publ.1999), the display at the Decorative Fair will incorporate folding screens from private collections, and many for sale from dealers exhibiting at the Fair. Mark has dubbed folding screens as the "Cinderella of the Antiques World".

Now in its 21st year, The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair has long been regarded by international decorators, designers and private buyers "in the know" as a unique source of furniture, lighting and accessories. It is particularly appreciated for its variety of unusual objects with decorative appeal – visitors may find anything from walking canes to vintage table-top football, antique French linens & kitchen items, fossil art & vintage Vuitton trunks, garden benches & statuary, architectural antiques & shell-work curiosities.

In the past 18 months there has been a revival in the fortunes of traditional fine furniture, as many buyers realise the long-term benefits of such timeless pieces taking a place even in contemporary interiors. About 35% of Dealers at the Decorative Fair offer good quality, practical, period English and Continental furniture at reasonable prices; side and sofa tables, dining and occasional tables, wing-back chairs and wardrobes, chests and corner cupboards have all proved popular with customers recently. Prices for a small Georgian table may start around £400 whilst a fine C18th walnut secretaire might be offered at a price in the region of £15,000.

The most relaxed and stylish Fair in London, visitors may bring their (well-behaved) dogs, enjoy a light meal in the Café, and catch a lift back to Sloane Square on the complimentary shuttle service. Free parking at The Marquee (located outside the Congestion Charge zone) is also available. The Fair is open from 12pm to 8pm Tuesday 3rd, and from 11am daily through

Sunday 8th October (closing times vary). Visit [www.decorativefair.com](http://www.decorativefair.com) for further details. Entry is £8 including catalogue.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

Event: The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair

Date: Tuesday 3rd – Sunday 8th October 2006

Venue: The Marquee, Battersea Park, London SW11

Entry: £8.00 including catalogue (for free return visits)

Transport: Sloane Square Tube – a complimentary shuttle service runs from the Sloane Square Hotel to the Marquee every 10-15 minutes during opening hours.

Open: Tuesday 12pm – 8pm

Wednesday, Thursday 11am – 8pm

Friday 11am – 7pm

Saturday & Sunday 11am – 6pm

Organisers: Harvey (Management Services) Ltd

Enquiries: +44 (0)20 7624 5173

Website: [www.decorativefair.com](http://www.decorativefair.com)

Mark Aldbrook

Mark has worked for many years in the field of interior decoration, and was a Director of Blanchards of Sloane Street (antiques dealers). In 1989 he founded Paravent Screens, a company which sells and restores antique screens, and which also creates contemporary screens and murals to commission.

Photo Captions:

(Above) A European painted leather screen, c1850, depicts a C16th Persian-style hunting scene, the reverse decorated with stylised floral motifs (£2850).

(Below) A set of four C19th hand-painted Japanese silk panels, (i.r.o. £1000).