



INTERNATIONAL



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Antiques and The Arts Weekly
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‘Out Of The Ordinary’ Objects From The Gary Pyper Collection At Sworders February 7



A 5,000-year-old “eye” idol from the ancient Syrian city of Tell Brak (£400/600).

LONDON — Gary Pyper began collecting at a very early age. A fascination with objects and their stories proved a welcome alternative to school textbooks and the impetus behind his first regular “Saturday” job, working alongside his friend’s father at the local auction house. By the 1990s, having studied industrial design at university, he was filling vans with midcentury design and running them into London.

Highlights from the Gary Pyper Collection offered as part of Sworders’ annual “Out of The Ordinary” sale on February 7 display a more eclectic eye. From the fossil of a



Gary Pyper at home with his collection.



A pair of Twentieth Century leather miner’s helmets, both with inscribed numbers to the inside (£300/500).



A carrier pigeon message written in code during the Boer War (£150/250).

keichosaurus, a marine reptile from the Triassic period (£300/500) to a pair of leather miner’s helmets, this is the stuff of the cabinet of curiosities and the Wunderkammer. “Objects give me a tangible connection to the past and to the craftsman who shaped them” says Gary. “If something makes me feel intrigued or enlightened in some way, then I add it to the collection. There was also the joy of the treasure hunt.”

“The more unexpected the discovery, the more rewarding they are. Many of the objects in the collection were found by scouring local flea markets by torchlight, or simply by following up on a random conversation with a stranger.” It was in this way that he came

to own items as diverse as a carrier pigeon message written in code during the Boer War and a 5,000-year-old “eye” idol from the ancient Syrian city of Tell Brak.

The sometimes powerful stories these pieces tell have proved invaluable as Gary sought to pique the interest of his children in the world around them. “Educating my kids became one of the main motivations, and justifications, for maintaining such a large and quirky collection. They are both entering into teens now so it’s time to share the contents with a wider audience and free them from the solitude of the attic.”

Sworders’ London gallery is at 15 Cecil Court. For information, www.sworder.co.uk.

Nationalmuseum Acquires Wiurila Chair

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN — A Wiurila chair, designed by Bernadotte & Kylberg, has been donated to the Nationalmuseum collection. Created for a restaurant at Wiurila, a manor house at Halikko in southern Finland, the chair was donated by the Finnish design business Made by Choice.

Bernadotte & Kylberg is a design partnership set up in 2012 by Prince Carl Philip and Oscar Kylberg. Their aesthetic is often described as graphic and Scandinavian. To achieve optimal results, the two designers devote equal effort to every stage of the creative process, from research, understanding, premise and concept through to design. Bernadotte & Kylberg see each stage as equally important. Sustainable design always comes down to the concept — as much to its effectiveness as to its sustainability over time.

The aesthetic and the robust design process appealed to Made by Choice, who invited the partnership to create the chair for the famous Wiurila

manor house, whose history stretches back to the Fifteenth Century. The manor house is a two-story stone building in Neoclassical style, constructed between 1806 and 1811 to a design by Charles Bassi. It is considered Bassi’s finest building. The farm buildings on the estate were erected between 1843 and 1845 to the designs of Carl Ludvig Engel, best known for his Neoclassical buildings in central Helsinki, including the cathedral, the university and the cabinet office on Senate Square.

“This chair contains a lot of architectural influences,” explained Oscar Kylberg. “It’s important to be aware of history and to learn from it, without straying into plagiarism. When tradition meets contemporary design, the outcome will be exciting. This is a chair with a strong identity behind it. In fact, the back was the first part we designed.”

Kylberg is quick to cite Wiurila’s Neoclassical architecture as a source

of inspiration. The aesthetic of the chair mirrors the roofline of the farm buildings, and the chair legs borrow elements from the classical columns of the manor house. The chair comes in four colors: red, yellow, black and natural. The example donated to Nationalmuseum has a natural finish.

“I’m extremely grateful for the donation of the Wiurila chair to Nationalmuseum. The chair embodies timeless design and is a reminder of the historical relationship between Sweden and Finland,” said Susanna Pettersson, director general of Nationalmuseum.

Nationalmuseum receives no state funds with which to acquire design, applied art and artwork; instead, the collections are enriched through donations and gifts from private foundations and trusts. The Wiurila chair was generously donated by Made by Choice.

The Nationalmuseum is at Södra Blasieholmshamnen 2. For information, www.nationalmuseum.se.



Bernadotte & Kylberg (designers), Made by Choice (manufacturer), Wiurila Chair, 2022, ash. Nationalmuseum. Linn Ahlgren photo courtesy Nationalmuseum.