



THE AUCTION

Instinct, Scholarship and Curiosity: The Jan Finch Collection

9th & 10th November, Sworders

Sworders begins the new season with a remarkable two-day sale of objects from the collection of pioneering dealer Jan Ellen Finch (1952–2021), who began her 40-year career trading dealer-to-dealer at London's Portobello Market in the 1980s. As her husband, Craig, seeks to declutter, 400 lots have been consigned for sale, with estimates from £100 to £30,000. Guy

Schooling, chairman of Sworders, says: 'Under Jan's leadership, Finch & Co became one of the best-known dealerships of the modern era. What began as a traditional dealership evolved into a 'look' based on passion, instinct, scholarship and curiosity.' After Jan and Craig married in 1993, their 'wunderkammer' mix of ethnographic art, European sculpture and antiquities became

a regular fixture at trade fairs such as Masterpiece and TEFAF, and the catalogues for their twice-yearly exhibition in St James's were like gold dust. The South Kensington business continues to trade, and with many of its clients based in the EU, Craig is hoping to operate partly from Brussels.

'Sworders' sale amounts to a celebration of many of Jan's life passions,' continues Guy. 'It includes many items of Finch & Co stock, from Roman sculpture to Oceanic war clubs, but also pieces from Jan's personal collection. When at home near Banbury, she was a keen cook and gardener, and a library of hundreds of cookery books will be up for sale alongside garden furnishings, including 20 antique stone troughs.'

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1 An 18th/19th-century Ethiopian Christian devotional double-sided tablet pendant, est £1,500–£2,000. **2** A selection of 18th and 19th-century Oceanic and Aboriginal war clubs and shields, ests from £500–£3,500 (two shown). **3** A pair of early 19th-century Ottoman sherbet spoons made from coconut shell, amber and coral, est £400–£600. **4** A 19th-century Tibetan gilt copper mask of a ferocious snow lion, est £1,800–£2,000. **5** A Roman marble head of a horned satyr, over 2,000 years old, est £4,000–£6,000; an Imperial Roman marble portrait head, 3rd century AD, possibly of a senator, est £3,000–£5,000.