

THE DECORATIVE FAIR

Post Show Press Release Winter 2026



Quindry sold the collection of wall decorations and the pair of chairs on opening day; Cal Smith Gallery sold this unique cabinet by French sculptor Pierre Dedieu (1928-2013); a gilded Japanese screen sold by Dorian Caffot de Fawes

A classic Opening Day at Battersea, with a lengthy queue and lots of trade, brought buoyant sales across all disciplines: antique and C20th furniture, lighting, mirrors, glass and collectables, and pictures.

A good gate saw plenty of Americans and international buyers throughout the Fair, which ran 20-25 January, with dealers reporting export sales as well as to the home market. Decorators were out in force, with leading names such as Martyn Lawrence Bullard, Veere Grenney, Kathryn Ireland, Rose Uniacke, Vicky Davar, Sophie Paterson and Guy Goodfellow seen shopping. Celebrities visiting included Sir Paul Smith, musician Steve Winwood, photographer Mario Testino and American actor Corbin Bernsen (LA Law).

Disciplines selling particularly well were traditional English antique furniture – good, unusual examples – great-looking C20th design, interesting objects both antique and modern, side tables, and as is often the case in winter, lots of lighting and mirrors and glass. Discretionary luxury items such as jewellery, vintage watches and couture pieces were selling. Art of all periods found buyers at all levels, from affordable decorative modern pictures to fine antique and early C20th paintings.

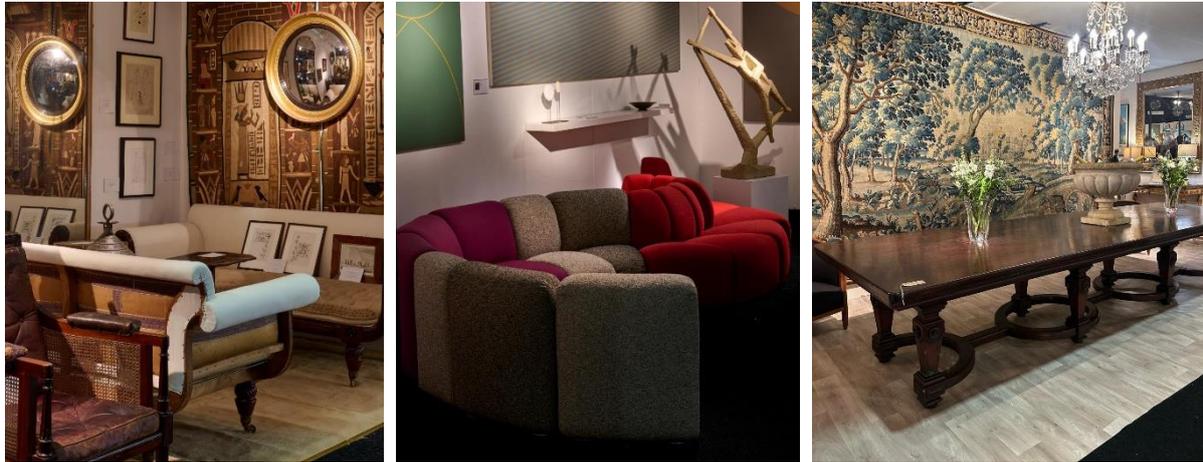
Darren Hudson of Hudson Antiques and co-Organiser of the Fair, reported strong sales across the board, with most made to the USA. He related that one customer, a designer from Kentucky, said “this is my first ever visit to the Fair and I love it!”.

The Organisers were glad to welcome quite a large contingent of US decorators visiting the capital as part of Design Destination London, an annual trade trip run in conjunction with the Design Centre in Chelsea Harbour. Most of these decorators were making their first visit to the Fair, and most of them made personal and business purchases. Their feedback was highly positive, and many expressed their intention to return in the future.

Highlight sales included:

- an exceptional wall cabinet made of carved oak, by the French sculptor Pierre Dedieu (1928-2013), TP £12,800 that came from the artist’s studio at the Paris Observatory (Cal Smith Gallery)
- a 1680s Flemish cabinet on stand in Brazilian rosewood with a star pattern in parquetry, ticketed at £11,800 (Sheldrake Collection)
- a rare model of a Carlo Bugatti bench c1905 in untouched condition ticketed at £65,000 (Two Poems)

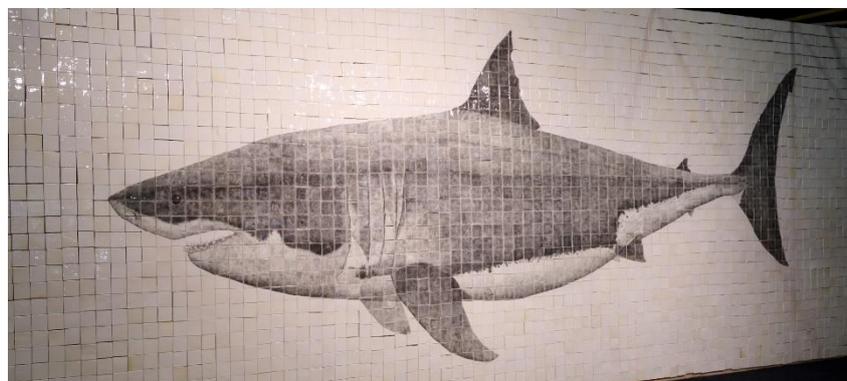
- a major installation of 1950s/60s Spanish Brutalist wall lights ticketed at £36,000 (Nick Jones)
- a classical capriccio landscape oil painting, Circle of John Wootton, TP £19,500 (The Parker Gallery)
- a very good Indo-Portuguese embroidery TP £12,500 (Owen Parry)
- a modular Mississippi sofa by Artifort, Italian c1970, ticketed at £16,500 (Henry Saywell Works of Art)
- a gilded Japanese folding screen TP £14,500 (Dorian Caffot de Fawes)
- a large French post-Impressionist oil painting, sold from the foyer display, ticketed at £25,000 (Darnley Fine Art)
- a massive C19th mahogany refectory-style Italian table TP £28,000 (Hudson Antiques)



Rebecca Christie-Miller Antiques sold this pair of Georgian sofas TP £19,500; an Artifort Mississippi sofa sold by Henry Saywell Works of Art TP £16,500; Hudson Antiques' Italian C19th mahogany table was ticketed at £28,000

Darren Hudson added: "There was a noticeable number of younger, well-to-do clients in attendance at the event as well as top-level decorators and private buyers who could afford to buy whatever they liked, regardless of ticket price. The great thing about The Decorative Fair is the accessibility and range of stock; sales ran from under £60 for a small 'treat' – a piece of vintage glass perhaps or silver-plated cutlery or a ceramic – to over £60,000 for important and extraordinary items."

A highlight work for sale was a massive tiled wall installation by artist and exhibitor Tom Rooth. Nearly 3000 hand-painted and glazed tiles featured a known female great white shark Deep Blue, the largest ever caught on camera. It took Tom seven months to make, and was displayed on the wall of the ground floor café. It measured 8m long by 3m tall and generated serious enquiries from trade and private buyers, ticketed at £55,000.



Deep Blue, a 2900-tile art installation by Tom Rooth was a major feature at the Fair

Jane Juran, Organiser, said, "We had a very strong gate, with visitor numbers up on October. Long-term visitors continue to comment on how the Fair seems to look better and better at every turnout, a testament to our industrious exhibitors who continue to source the most wonderful things."

Darren Hudson closed by saying: “With the UK economy giving a difficult time for many traders, it was reassuring to see so many visitors from around the globe. The American trade certainly helped but weren’t the only buyers. With steady business spread across all six days, having exhibited long enough to remember when it was quieter midweek, that isn’t the case now.

With the slightly later dates for our next event of 12-17 May 2026 - avoiding the Bank Holidays - I’m excited for the Spring edition.”

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Sold by Chalet White, a pair of op-art geometric 1970s Italian side tables; a pair of early C20th Heal’s chests sold by Holly Johnson Antiques priced at £5000; Tom Hurst had four of these early C19th Chinese enamel export chocolate pots decorated as bok choy cabbages, together they were ticketed at £750 and all sold