

## Auction

# Willie Apap self-portrait sold for record €25,000

Duncan Barry

A rare oil on board self-portrait of Willie Apap and a St James oil on canvas *bottega* of Mattia Preti (1613-1699) were sold well above expectations during an auction held at a private residence in Ta' Xbiex. The outstanding collection of antiques and works of art was from private collectors and other private entries.

Foremost in the auction was a rare collection of 20th Century Willie Apap, Emvin Cremona, Esprit Barthelet, Luciano Micallef, Joseph Bellia, Anton Agius, Debbie Caruana Dingli, Vincent D'Esposito, Giorgio Pullicino, A Schranz, Victor Diacono, Victor Pasmore, Antoine Camilleri, Paul Carbonaro, Joseph Cassar and Gabriel Caruana works which were sold during the auction.

A Willie Apap self-portrait fetched a record sale of €25,000.

Obelisk clients made the auction very exciting when the Old

Masters paintings were being auctioned.

A number of clients, who included foreign bidders residing in Malta, remarked that the auction was in itself "worthy of a museum exhibition".

Apart from 17th and 18th century paintings, there was also a good presence of Maltese furniture, including an 18th century bureau and English and Maltese silver items. Also of significance was a large collection of Melitensia, which saw many interested bidders.

All entries were from private collectors, the villa itself was not part of the auction and is available for long let. Obelisk Auctions thanked Baron Properties Limited for their kindness in permitting the use of their villa.

The next antiques and fine arts auction will be held by Obelisk at Mdina in the new year. This will be followed by a major auction of items and memorabilia of a notable family in Sliema.



Willie Apap self-portrait.

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