



Photos: Jason Borg

## Maltese furniture, old and modern art works under the hammer

Duncan Barry

A collection of 17th and 18th century Maltese furniture, old paintings and works by masters of Maltese modern art will go under the hammer later this month.

Those with a passion for books and history can look forward to a selection of out of print *Meliten-sia*, the majority of which are nowadays collectors' items.

There will also be a selection of English and European silver, glass, porcelain, Sicilian Maiolica items and Persian carpets.

Pride of place goes to a 17th-century side table veneered and inlaid in orange wood, with tapering legs joined by a cross stretcher with an obelisk-shaped finial and an apron under the drawer. A similar item can be found at Palazzo Falson, in Mdina. In addition, the auction will include a variety of Maltese early 18th century furniture, including a rare

18th century Maltese clock with original workings.

Religious and topographical engravings will be on sale together with 17th and 18th century maps of Malta.

A pair of paintings by Edward Caruana Dingli, which were displayed during the recent exhibition, *Portraits, Views and Folkloristic Scenes*, mounted by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*, will also go under the hammer.

The collection of old master paintings and 20th century Maltese contemporary art includes works by the major protagonists of modern Malta including Emvin Cremona, Willie Apap, Antoine Camilleri and John Martin Borg, Victor Pasmore, the great British abstract artist, and Sir William Russell Flint, to name but a few.

Stefano Erardi, whose works can be found in a number of locations including churches, will also feature on the auction catalogue. Other artists of note are Francesco

Zimelli, Vincenzo Fenech, Paul Camilleri Cauchi, Josef Kalleja, Paolo Carbonaro, Gianni Vella, A. Diacono, Gianni Bonnici, Alfred Chircop, Kenneth Holmes, Vincenzo D'Esposito and Sylvia Halliday.

A rare olivewood sculpture, *Flames*, by Anton Agius, will be among the items on offer as will a Harry Alden oil on canvas painting and one of the well-known Broken Glass series executed in the 1960s by Emvin Cremona.

The sale, on October 16 from 2.30 p.m. onwards, will be held at Tal-Qarqoċċu, Jules Verne Road, San Pawl tat-Tarġa, Naxxar and the 21-year-old, 4,000 square-metre villa and surrounding estate will also be auctioned.

The auction is being conducted by Pierre Grech Pillow of Obelisk Auctions.

Viewing will be held between Wednesday and Friday next week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on October 16 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

