

Art

A variety of estate contents are to be auctioned off

Marika Azzopardi

An important collection of fine arts and antiques will go under the Obelisk Auctions hammer this week.

The entire collection of a private estate will be auctioned off as instructed by the heirs of the late Paul Mallia. The sale also includes some items from private collections.

The prestigious estate includes a number of impressive *objets d'art* and a selection of antique paintings collected over many years.

Paintings include masterpieces by W.E. Atkins, G. Pullicino, G. Gianni and L.M. Galea. Also up for grabs are varied engravings, religious and topographical paintings, a pair of Schranz

watercolours, works by Willie Apap and a rare *bozzetto* by Briffa.

The G. Gianni paintings provide a particularly interesting highlight – a signed set of four oils on board depicting Indian troopers in Malta, Italian folk, scenes of Egypt and scenes of Constantinople, dated 1876.

The selection of European as well as 17th- and 18th-century Maltese furniture to go under the hammer includes a variety of specimens, chief of which are an 18th-century Maltese bureau and side table, as well as a revolving drum top table in olive wood, still fully functional.

You may be tempted to carry away some other kind of eclectic object – a rare Maltese clock (Tal-Lira), or a precious collection of delicately executed oriental figures in pre-ban ivory.

For those with a fixation for books and history, there is a rare 18th-century set of four volumes by Vertot – *History of the Knights of Malta*. Maltese *Melitensia* enthusiasts can look forward to a selection of out-of-print publications, all of which are now collectors' items.

There will also be silver, glass, porcelain, maiolica and carpets.

In all, this auction provides a cross section of some of the most important and impressive items to bid on in Malta.

The auction will be held at Villa Templar, Lord Strickland Street, Attard. Viewings will take place on October 22, 23 and 24 from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. and October 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. Lots 1 – 300 to be auctioned on October 25 and lots 301 – 516 will be auctioned on October 26 from 2.30 p.m. onwards.

Exhibition of recent Lawrence Buttigieg paintings

Lawrence Buttigieg is exhibiting a collection of recent paintings at the Vee Gee Bee Art Gallery in Republic Street, Valletta, till November 15.

The exhibition may be considered as a sequel to last year's exhibition in the Auberge d'Italie.

In this body of works, Buttigieg continues to develop the themes of the female portrait, the naked female form and the local landscape. What characterises his portrayals of the female figure, both nude and dressed, is his distinctive objective approach, which may be derived from his architectural background.

These new paintings portray Buttigieg's ever present preoccupation with composition, drafting and colour. Whereas the figurative works address questions of identity and representation, the landscapes explore the Mediterranean environment, with its typical strong colours and sharp contrasts of light and shade.

In Buttigieg's works, land, sea and human form are simplified and transformed into subtle orchestrations of colour and defined brushstrokes.

His colours are the colours of life, which render likeness and personal stylisation inseparable.

Works of Buttigieg may be viewed online at www.aboutlawrence.eu and www.aboutlawrence.com.

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