

Press release

Salon Nights at the Winter Fair - speakers announced

This year the Winter Fine Art & Antiques Fair, Olympia, the key fine art and antique event in the run-up to Christmas, embraces the recent trend for literary salon culture with an on and off-site talks programme – **Salon Nights at the Winter Fair** - presented by Miller's Academy of Arts and Science, The Last Tuesday Society and Home House. All evening events include drinks courtesy of Miller's Gin.

At intimate venues like Miller's Academy in Notting Hill, The Last Tuesday Society at Bistroteque and Home House in Portland Square 30-somethings soak up the ambience of a bygone era, sharing news from the worlds of art and science by flickering candlelight.

Geoffrey Breeze on The Walking Stick: Sex, Violence and Money
Presented by Home House at Home House, 20 Portman Square, London W1
Monday 5 November, 7.00-8.00pm

Geoffrey Breeze reveals the fascinating history of the walking cane. In days gone by a cane was an item of fashion, individuality, power, status and profession. Whether sporting a jewelled Faberge cane or one of whalebone fashioned by a sailor at sea, a cane made a powerful statement. Each cane is redolent with the history of bygone individuals and their times while revealing a remarkable level of skill and artistry.

£10 / free to Home House members - RSVP to Lysiane.Lacharme@clarionevents.com

Hugo Vickers on Horses and Husbands: The Life and Loves of Etti Plesch

Presented by The Last Tuesday Society at Olympia
Tuesday 13 November, 7.00-8.00pm, drinks from 6.00pm

Born Countess Wurmbbrand from a noble Austrian family, and probably the daughter of a noted rake, Count Josef Gizycki, by the age of 40, Etti Plesch had married six husbands, divorcing five of them, and losing two of them to the same woman. She held a place in *The Guinness Book of Records* for many years as the only woman owner to have won the Derby twice. Etti Plesch's extraordinary life is celebrated in her memoirs, which author Hugo Vickers brought to completion this September following her death in 2003.

Sebastian Conran - From Wedgwood to Conran: What's in a Name?

Presented by Miller's Academy at Olympia
Wednesday 14 November, 7.00-8.00pm, drinks from 6.00pm

'Value', 'Quality', 'Luxury': What have these words come to mean in our off-the-peg, one size fits all age? Premier designer Sebastian Conran explores what constitutes excellence and individuality in creating product identity, arguing that value exists at all tiers from 'volume quality' to 'elite luxury'.

James Ayres FSA on Artisan Art: To 1841 and afterwards

Loan exhibition Lunchtime Lecture at Olympia
Wednesday 14 November, 12 noon

Outside the conventions of academic painting and the polite restraint of provincial art the artisan artist operated in splendid aesthetic isolation. With a sophisticated grounding in the craft of painting such individuals recorded the world as they knew it with heraldic simplicity. To tie-in with the Winter Fine Art & Antiques Fair, Olympia's exhibition 'Simply British: A Private Collection of Naïve Paintings', James Ayres will examine these and other features in the history of this naive painting.

VISITOR INFORMATION **Winter Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Olympia**
Olympia Exhibition Halls, □Hammersmith Road, □London W14 8UX
www.olympia-antiques.com

Tickets for Salon Nights at The Winter Fair at £10 each, including fair entry, unless otherwise stated
Ticket Hotline +44 (0)871 231 9218 or www.seetickets.com for talks at Olympia only
All talks take place in the Club Room on the Gallery at Olympia, except Geoffrey Breeze on 5 November at Home House
Tickets for Home House can be reserved through Lysiane.Lacharme@clarionevents.com

Fair opening hours from 12 to 18 November: Monday preview night; Tuesday to Sunday from 11am daily, closing at 8pm from Tuesday to Thursday, at 7pm on Friday and Saturday and at 5pm on Sunday. **On-site dining** at Leith's Bistro, cafés and the Champagne Bar.

PRESS INFORMATION Jeanette Ward, Theresa Simon & Partners
T 020 7734 4800 M 07729 930 812 E jeanette@theresasimon.com