

international events

Dealers telling their story

■ Left Bank galleries join forces to focus on a particular piece of stock with an interesting story



Anne Crane reports

THE Carré Rive Gauche is a long-standing Parisian association of around 120 art and antiques dealers grouped in the 6th and 7th arrondissements in a network of roads bounded by the quai Voltaire and the rues de l'Université, du Bac and des Saints-Pères.

Members are known for mounting a series of group initiatives throughout the year to tempt visitors and enthusiasts to visit their Left Bank galleries.

The latest runs from May 15-18 and is titled *Un Objet Une Histoire* (each piece has a story). The idea is to focus attention on a particular piece in their stock which has an interesting history to serve as an entrée to discovering the entire gallery contents and as a means of highlighting the eclecticism and wealth of specialist



A RENAISSANCE TREASURE

Left: Gabrielle Laroche's gallery on the rue de Lille is a treasure trove of Medieval, Renaissance and 17th century furniture and objects. One of the stars of her display is this Renaissance red walnut two-part cabinet from South-West France c.1580, which stands 6ft (1.83m) high. Its real attraction lies in the elaborate wealth of carved decoration to both parts. This is emblematic of the four seasons, with spring and summer to the upper part and autumn and winter to the lower, each season accompanied by carved zodiacal signs. The carving is also rich in symbolic and mythological detail, with a series of animals such as a dog for faithfulness, a lion for strength, wisdom and justice and a peacock for pride, as well as figures including Mars, Mercury, Neptune, Venus and Athena. There is additional inlaid floral detailing in mother-of-pearl. This elaborate piece may well have been made to celebrate a marriage. It has a price guide of €80,000. www.gabrielle-laroche.com

expertise across the whole area.

Several of the participants, such as the Galerie Chenel featured here, are also staging special themed exhibitions, some of which will run beyond the four-day 'discovery' period.

There is also a late-night, first day opening from 6-10pm.

For further information see www.carrerivegauche.com



SCROLL WITH A STORY

Left: Christina Ortega, whose gallery is housed in a former 18th century apothecary on the rue de Beaune, has selected a large and beautifully preserved Chinese embroidered presentation scroll as her piece with a story. The 4ft 1in (1.25m) long scroll of pink-lined cream silk is finely embroidered with coloured silk and gold thread embroidery of flowers bordering a red text in honour of Sir John Pope Hennessy, who was the 8th Governor of Hong Kong from 1877, and is signed by Chong Woo, a Hong Kong silversmith and luxury export goods dealer. The scroll comes in a lacquered box (pictured above) decorated in different shades of gold with a painted silk interior featuring a court scene. It is priced at €20,000. www.cristina.ortega.com

MANY FACES OF ANTIQUITIES

Left: Galerie Chenel on the quai Voltaire will be using the occasion of *Un Object Une Histoire* to unveil its summer exhibition *Fusion*, which runs from May 15 to July 19. This is a broad-based celebration of the interplay of different elements in antiquities, be it the form of gods from Eastern cultures incorporated in those of the West, the visual fusion of humans and animals, or the transformation of sculptural material into vegetal form. The exhibits cover a wide variety of styles and prices (from €2000 up to six figures). This 2nd century AD marble is known as an *oscillum*, a disc or figure which was suspended from a building to appease the gods. This example features Medusa's head to one side and a satyr's to the other and its large size, 18½in (47cm) in height, means it must have been produced for a very wealthy household. It comes with a provenance to a Swiss private collection, acquired in the late 1970s and is priced at €185,000. Also among the pieces on show will be a Roman marble lion monopodium of the 2nd century AD that is noted for its well-connected later history. Acquired by James Christie (1773-1831) founder of the auction house for Charles Blundell (1761-1837) of Ince Blundell Hall in Lancashire, it was subsequently bequeathed to John Gladstone and was at Fasque House in Scotland. www.galeriechenel.com

