

Auction

20th century Maltese art under the hammer

An outstanding collection of Maltese 20th century art is going under the hammer of Obelisk Auctions at Villa Licari, Triq L-Imdina, Balzan on May 30.

This is one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary 20th century Maltese art to come up for auction. It includes works by the major protagonists of modern Malta including Emvin Cremona, Willie Apap, Vincent Apap, Giuseppe Briffa, Antoine Camilleri, Giorgio Preca and Carmelo Mangion among others. Of considerable importance is a rare large academy oil on canvas female nude by Emvin Cremona and two other oil paintings of female nudes by Giuseppe Briffa and Willie Apap respectively.

Other works by Apap include a pair of ballerina paintings and a number of smaller works executed while the artist was in prison.

The collection boasts of a Christ by Carmelo Mangion, abstract works by Emvin Cremona and a portrait of the artist's wife by Antoine Camilleri. The latter is one of the first modernist portraits executed in Malta. There are also a number of female nudes by Joseph Bellia.

The auction includes a selection of Maltese early 18th century furniture, a rare Maltese clock, a fine



One of Willie Apap's works on auction.

collection of rare 16th, 17th and 18th century maps of Malta, and topographical views of Malta, including signed works by J. Schranz and N. Cammillieri.

Christie's trims Asia sales

James Pomfret

Auction house Christie's will scale back its spring sales of Asian art in Hong Kong, yet the tighter, more cheaply-priced lots are expected to bring fresh confidence to a fragile market, its COO said yesterday.

The upcoming spring sales in Hong Kong, often seen as a weather vane for the Chinese art market, are expected to fetch \$97 million in total sales this year - roughly a third of the tally last spring when a record \$310 million of artwork was sold.

"What we're looking for out of these sales... is that the market has found a new level of comfort with prices and activity," Christie's chief operating officer Andy Foster said on the eve of the sales which kick off tomorrow.

"It's not that we're suddenly going to reach, in this season, the sales levels of spring 2008 at the peak of the market. But we believe that what we're seeing is going to lead to a real feeling of confidence in the region that the market's back on track."

Since the financial crisis deepened last October, broader demand for Asian art has shrivelled, and valuations have fallen, particularly for once red-hot Chinese contemporary art.

Mr Foster admitted to difficulties in convincing collectors to sell right now, but said demand for top artwork remained strong and was growing, particularly among mainland Chinese collectors.

"High quality items of Chinese works of art can still achieve extremely high price points," he said.

The recent market slump hasn't however been the only headache for Christie's.

The world's biggest auction house was recently embroiled in a bitter spat with the Chinese government over the sale of two bronze animal heads looted by foreign troops from Beijing's Old Summer Palace or Yuanmingyuan in 1860.

The February sale of the looted treasures in Paris stirred up strong nationalistic feelings in China, and sparked protests from Chinese cultural officials who later imposed restrictions on the sourcing of high-end relics in and out of China by Christie's.

A French auction house was also berated last month by China for selling a looted jade imperial seal. Mr Foster declined extensive comment on the controversy, but stressed it was being worked through in a positive way.

"We continue to respect the sensitivity of the issue to the Chinese people," said Mr Foster, who also heads Christie's in Asia.

In the upcoming sales, Christie's will sell 1,600 lots including Asian contemporary artwork, Chinese inkbrush paintings and imperial ceramics, as well as jewellery and watches.

While there aren't any truly blockbuster items this time round, highlights include a rare collection of Chinese furniture crafted from Huanghuali wood; a painting by Zao Wou-ki entitled *Nous Deux* (We Two) which could sell for up to HK\$15 million, and a Jiajing Ming period blue-and-white Boys Jar, depicting sixteen lively boys at play which could fetch over HK\$10 million. (Reuters)

ST JAMES CAVALIER CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY
CINEMA
 FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED
 In Memory of Me (U)
 8.30pm
 The Reader (16)
 9.00pm
 Tickets: €5.00
 Box Office: 21 223 200
 KRS Film Distributors Releases

TAL LIRA
 www.tallira.com
Hotel For Dogs (16)
 8:40 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30pm
Gran Torino (14)
 1:00 / 3:45 / 6:30 / 9:10pm
The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button (14)
 2:10 / 5:20 / 8:40pm
Saw V (18)
 3:00pm
The Secret Of Moonacre (12)
 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:30pm
TICKETS €2 Monday to Sunday! FREE PARKING
 Box office 21 80 8000
cinema
 CINEMA ADVERTISING 2 EURO PER DAY!!! CALL OR SMS! 79 80 70 70
 Galleria

The National Blood Transfusion Service
LIFE IS PRECIOUS. HELP US SAVE LIVES.
 PLEASE DONATE.
 St. Luke's Square
 G'mangla, Malta
 Tel: 2123 4767
 Mob: 7920 7507
 Email: nbt@gov.mt
 www.health.gov.mt/nbt

CITADEL CINEMA
 VICTORIA, GOZO
 TEL: 2153 8855 - 2194 1994
 Make and Share Your First Cinema Experience
 www.citadelcinema.com
FLMS SHOWING
DOUBT (16) 8.30pm
THE INTERNATIONAL (14) 8.30pm
 Reduced Prices of Cinema Tickets
 Adults € 3.00
 Kids € 1.15
 (SEE US FOR MORE INFO)
LEJLET LAPSI
NOI LE GOZIANI
FRI 27 - SAT 23 MAY 2009
GOZO 360 TICKETS REDUCED
 ADULTS €1.00
 CHILD €0.50

EMPIRE where movies come to life
 Tel: 2158 1787 - 2158 1909
 www.empirecinema.com.mt
 KRS FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASES
CORALINE 1:45, 4:00, 6:25, 8:40pm
ANGELS & DEMONS 2:15, 6:00, 9:00, 11:00pm
17 AGAIN 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:20, 11:35pm
X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 9:10, 11:30pm
KNOWING 1:10, 6:30pm
STATE OF PLAY 3:45, 9:05pm
STAR TREK - THE FUTURE BEGINS 2:00, 5:55, 8:45, 11:50pm
HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 8:55pm
ANGELS & DEMONS
 TOM HANKS
NOW SHOWING AT EMPIRE

the Embassy ...where else!
 CINEMAS - ST. LUCIA STREET, VALLETTA
TICKET HOTLINE 2122 2225
 www.embassycomplex.com.mt
Angels and Demons 14
 10.00am • 12.45pm • 3.30pm
 6.15pm • 9.00pm • 11.30pm
The Young Victoria 12
 2.15pm • 4.30pm • 6.40pm • 8.55pm
Haunting in Connecticut 14
 10.00am • 12.15pm • 2.30pm
 4.40pm • 7.00pm • 9.15pm • 11.20pm
X-Men Origins: Wolverine 12
 10.00am • 2.30pm • 4.45pm
 7.00pm • 9.15pm • 11.10pm
Knowing 14
 9.00pm
Hannah Montana The Movie 14
 2.30pm • 4.40pm • 6.50pm
Star Trek 12
 1.25pm • 4.00pm • 6.35pm • 9.10pm
FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS
17 Again 14
 KRS FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASES

EDEN CINEMAS ST. JULIANS
 TEL: 037 10 400
 www.eden cinemas.com.mt
KNOWING 14
 2:30, 6:25, 8:55, 11:25 pm
PAUL BLART: MALL COP 14
 7:30, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25, 10:30 pm
STATE OF PLAY 12
 2:15, 4:20, 6:00, 11:35 pm
HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE 14
 1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 11:00 pm
CORALINE 14
 1:40, 4:00, 6:10 pm
X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE 12
 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:15, 11:30 pm
ANGELS & DEMONS 14
 2:30, 6:00, 9:00, 11:45 pm
STAR TREK PG
 2:10, 6:00, 9:00, 11:30 pm
FAST AND FURIOUS 14
 2:00, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00, 11:20 pm
THE DAMNED UNITED NEW
 MICHAEL SHEEN & COLM HANLEY
 12
 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 9:10, 11:15 pm
THE YOUNG VICTORIA 12
 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:10, 11:25 pm
THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT 16
 2:00, 4:25, 6:40, 9:10, 11:20 pm
17 AGAIN NEW
 ZAC EFFRON & MATTHEW PERRY
 PG
 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 pm
 AVOID QUEUING & SAVE TIME BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT www.eden cinemas.com.mt

e3 where movies come back to life
 A great opportunity to catch up on these great movies
 4 cinemas - at the Eden Cinemas - St. George's Bay - St. Julian's
 Tel: 237 10 400 http://www.eden cinemas.com.mt/3
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU 14
 JENNIFER ANISTON
 2:15, 6:30, 8:40, 11:25 pm
WATCHMEN 18
 PATRICK WILSON & CARLA GUGINO
 2:30, 6:00, 9:10 pm
NEW IN TOWN PG
 RENEE ZELLWEGER
 2:00, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00, 11:00 pm
PINK PANTHER 2 U
 STEVE MARTIN, JEAN RENO & JOHN CLIFFE
 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:45, 10:45 pm
 KRS FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASES