



Objects Of Desire Show Brings Style To Home & Garden

WILTON, CONN. – Returning for its second year at the Wilton Historical Society, Objects of Desire: Style for the Garden and Home on June 1-2 brought a varied showcase of items for the garden and home in a two-day show. A preview party on May 31 went well and was well-attended. Show manager Karen DiSaia said there was a steady stream of visitors to the show on Saturday, while Sunday seemed slower, although dealers continued to sell.

For those who wanted first crack at the merchandise, there were two possibilities. A VIP reception opened at 5 pm on Friday, May 31, an exclusive event hosted by interior designer Phillip Thomas and his design committee. That allowed attendees to get a glass of bubbly and extra access to show's 25 dealers. A preview party followed that same evening, from 6 to 8 pm, featuring hors d'oeuvres, wines and an opportunity to get an early look at the objects available from the dealers.

In some respects, the event resembled a traditional antiques and fine art show – offerings ranged from midcentury to contemporary to vintage and antique. Dealers, however, were encouraged to curate a display that incorporated one-of-a-kind garden accents, furniture, accessories, found objects and art, the idea being that whether the item is an armillary, garden urn, scone or sculpture, it can change the conversation and ambiance of one's indoor or outdoor space. And the dealers complied.

"We really enjoy this show for the fact that it's a small, intimate show," said Tom Jewett of the Newcastle, Maine, duo of Jewett [Butch] Berdan. "Karen and Ralph [DeSaia] do a fantastic job, as always, and the Wilton Historical Society treats us so well."

Jewett said he believed the show may have been a little off due to the gorgeous weekend weather. "However," he added, "jewelry sold really well again for us this year, which is something we aren't really known for. My mom, Kathe Jewett, buys and sells estate jewelry, and we take it to shows for her from time to time."

Among the dealer's sales were two 14K gold and diamond bracelets and a platinum and diamond sapphire Deco ring, a rare wood-carved and painted eagle Victorian push toy with hand forged iron, rare African American Odd Fellows Heart and Hand, rooster weathervane, carved wood folk art Gabriel, carved bird and a large theorem on velvet. "We look forward to returning next year," he said.

Galena, Md., dealer Marty Anderson takes the show's sensibility to heart, bringing the quirky kind of statement pieces that make the visitor look again. She topped last year's find – a Prohibition-era case in golden oak that concealed storage space for banned intoxicants – with a Victorian period tea room or perfume glass case featuring swing-out stool seating. Did anyone want a beer, that is, bier? Anderson had one of those on offer as well, an 1800s iron stand with a new zinc top with curtain hooks and handles on either end for transporting the dearly departed on his or her way.

"I had lots of interest, especially in my one-of-a-kind glass," Anderson reported. "But not a lot of sales on my higher priced items. " Visitors, she added, "seemed to be mainly interested in standard East Coast antiques and not in different takes on conventional items. I think my items for sale were out there, and that surprised me. I was hoping that interior designers would be looking for new and unusual items."

There were 20 people listed in the show guide as being on the design committee, led again this year by Thomas, founder and principal of Phillip Thomas Inc, a New York

City-based interior design firm. Chosen for the show guide's cover was the image of a garden armillary, and, according to Tony Piehowicz, an exhibitor who traveled from Ohio for this show, his most popular item was an armillary sundial. "The show was very well-organized," he said. "The venue was very appropriate for the cause."

Also from Ohio, dealer Jane Langol likes to create tableaus featuring Midwest art pottery, quilts and small furniture pieces. She commented, "The show was a success for me inasmuch as I sold six pieces of Midwest art pottery – including two pieces of Red Wing pottery in the center of New England! My greatest joy was the sale of a sweet Pembroke table that I purchased at Rhinebeck the week before. It was unique. The table was found in a house in Portsmouth, N.H., and it was made of apple wood with the grain revealing the shoots from the apple tree. A super surface in good color and only 31 inches long." Langol said that it sold quickly on Sunday despite friends seeing the table on Saturday.

Regarding attendance, Langol observed, "We all wish that the customer traffic were better, but the beautiful weekend weather made that a challenge. I sensed that MidCentury Modern was the 'wanted item' based on the success of dealers featuring that vintage merchandise. The abovementioned pottery sales were pieces from that era, and although I was hesitant to present later material at such a fine venue, it proved to be the customer's wishes. One-of-a-kind items appeared to attract the customers, with other dealers in the room selling fun, spirited merchandise. Garden items sparked interest once again. Sunday traffic was slow – but that is the day I sold the table, so I am not complaining."

Popping in the booth of first-time exhibitor Jon Cresswell of Cresswell Art Advisory, Penn Valley, Penn., was Robert Indiana's "The Philadelphia LOVE," number 74 of an edition of 125. One of the most desirable and iconic prints of American Pop art, this version rarely comes to market, according to the dealer, and it's larger – 33 1/2 by 30 1/4 inches – than the more common editions published in the 1990s.

Cresswell also remarked that sales were mixed. "I deal in mostly works of art on paper. I sold a few Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century maps, some Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century prints of natural history, an Edward Curtis photograph and a contemporary screen print by Peter Lister. It's encouraging for the show that it has the support of the design committee. I would have loved to see more of them circle back throughout the weekend. If there was some programming, for example, speaker engagements, that might draw some more interest and greater attendance."

Paul Vandekar of Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge, who recently moved from Westchester County, N.Y., to Downingtown, Penn., with his wife, Deirdre Healy, had a cozy setup in a room just to the left of the building's main entrance, a space that he filled with his usual selection of woolies, botanical plates, Fornasetti items and more. A major sale over the weekend, he said, was a group of 12 framed prints. Also sold was his marquee item – a Wedgwood Pottery large painted plaque, "The Sailor's Farewell," circa 1820, which he believed was most likely painted in Liverpool, England, for the maritime trade. Though they did not sell at this show, a trio of Chinese camphor wood trunks with painted leather exteriors were getting a lot of attention. Leslie Keno was a surprise visitor to Vandekar's booth, and the dealer posted on his Facebook page a photo of the two antiques specialists discussing a Sussex pig from the Belle-Vue Pottery.

Wilton Historical Society is at 224 Danbury Road. For information, www.wiltonhistorical.org.



Valet parking was a must at the show's well-attended preview party. This is the helpful crew from Valet Park of America that made it happen.



G. Sergeant Antiques, Woodbury, Conn.



From left, guest Melissa Kelly, preview committee member Haiku Durden, historical society co-director Allison Sanders, Mark Bower and historical society trustee and preview party committee chair Heather Bower.



You could find maritime art in a couple of mediums at A Bird In Hand Antiques, Florham Park, N.J. One was an oil on canvas painting of a yacht racing scene depicting a cutter off the coast of the isle of Wight and Portsmouth, circa 1830–40. The other was a Grenfell Mission hand hooked silk stockings depiction of “Sailing Ship at Sea,” circa 1930s.



Withington and Company Antiques, Portsmouth, N.H.



It was a perfect night to compare notes amid bubbly and passed hors d'oeuvres at the preview party on the grounds of the Wilton Historical Society.



Summer pastimes were evoked at Donna Kmetz American Paintings, Douglas, Mass., by "Path to the Beach" by William Baxter Closson (1848–1926, a well-listed Boston artist who started out as a wood engraver before turning to painting in 1894. He quickly established a reputation for evocative depictions of young women and children.



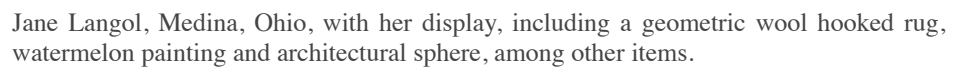
The Village Braider, Plymouth Mass.



Marty Anderson Design, Galena, Md., had an early carved suitcase for pennies.



This unique mid-Twentieth Century hooked rug with basket and flowers did not hang long on the wall at Mad River Antiques, North Granby, Conn. Measuring 29½ by 44½ inches, it was seen heading out the door with a show patron during preview.





Marty Anderson shows an interesting piece of Victorian-era furniture, believed to be a glass case on stand for a tea room or for displaying perfumes. A salient feature was the iron base, having four swing-out walnut stools. Behind her she had her five folk art carved ducks in a row.



There were many desirable botanical and natural history prints among the selection displayed by D.M. DeLaurentis Fine Antique Prints, Philadelphia, Penn. This example from original botanical plates included in one of the earliest editions of Hortus Eystettensis, printed in Germany in 1640, was among the “best of the best.”



This Wedgwood Pottery large painted plaque "The Sailor's Farewell," circa 1820, was a notable sale for Paul Vandekar of Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge, Downingtown, Penn. It was most likely painted in Liverpool, England, for the maritime trade.



Greg German of Mad River Antiques, North Granby, Conn., described this as a hand carved shield from local No. 543 of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of Mamaroneck, N.Y., dated 1911.



David Bell Antiques, Washington, DC.



They did not sell at this show, but this trio of Chinese camphor wood trunks with painted leather exteriors were certainly desirable at Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge, Downingtown, Penn.



Carlson and Stevenson, Manchester Center, Vt. Said Tim Stevenson, "Our sales were good, especially in the sterling silver monogrammed napkin rings. We look forward to next year."



The metal hitching post was available at Thistlethwaite Americana, Alexandria, Va., but not the granite post to the right of it, which is a permanent fixture on the society's grounds. Taylor Thistlethwaite had cleverly incorporated it into his display.



Jon Cresswell, Cresswell Art Advisory, Penn Valley, Penn., stands next to a rare edition of Robert Indiana's desirable and iconic "The Philadelphia LOVE," number 74 of an edition of 125.



Karen and Ralph DiSaia, Old Lyme, Conn., with their collection of Oriental rugs and textiles.



Jewett-Berdan, Newcastle, Maine.



“Jewelry sold really well again for us this year,” said Tom Jewett, shown here assisting customers with his selection.



J&M Antiques, Amherst, N.Y.



Tony Piehowicz, Garden Stone Art and Antiques, traveled from Granville, Ohio, for this show. Shown here with a huge iron arch that once graced the entrance into a Ball brother's estate, he explained that the four Ball brothers went into the glass jar business in 1880 in Muncie, Ind. Each of them had a lavish home estate.



Find Weatherly, Stamford, Conn.



Nula Thanhauser, New York City, showcased many desirable accessories for the well-appointed woman, including on the top shelf, from left, a Larry Vbra brooch and earrings with glass cabochons, a wonderful regal-looking clutch purse from 1890 and the frothy horsehair chapeau.



Glen Leroux Antiques, Westport, Conn., showed a vase by Reuben Nakian, sculptor and draftsman, atop a cocktail table by Paul Evans. “The show was lovely,” said Leroux. “Attendance was a little slow, but the weather was so nice, I think it affected the show. My selling was good — a pair of Grosfeld house chairs and several pieces of jewelry.”



Both desirable and iconic, a Nineteenth Century leaping stag weathervane attributed to Washburn, Waltham, Mass., and shown by first-time show exhibitor Willow Springs Perennial, Rexford, N.Y.