

The Interiors" Issue!

Greetings from Paris! I don't know if the weather is as gloomy where you are as it is over here.

I've been spending a lot of time indoors, and I think it is a perfect time to focus on still lives, all things interior ... so this is the loose theme of this newsletter.

Let's start with a lightly cubist floral by Nicolas Issaiev (1891-1977)



Nicolas Issaiev 1891-1977) Petunia, ca 1945, oil on board, 46 x 38 cm, framed, £ 580/ 650 Euros

There's a lot I like about this picture: the humble subject, a lowly Petunia -in the most basic of terracotta pots- brought to life and rendered interesting. My artist friend Boris Taslitzky (1911-2005) always used to say "when I paint a flower, I paint *the portrait* of a flower". And this is exactly what Issaiev does, as well.

I like the play of light in the windows and curtains, the elegance of it. I imagine a figure – her head is just above the flower, but this may just be my imagination.



Issaiev was born in the Ukraine in 1891 and initially studied in Odessa with highly respected Ukrainian masters. After fighting in WW1, he emigrated initially to Belgrade and came to Paris in 1925. He exhibited in numerous international exhibitions in Brussels, Belgrade, Paris and New York.

Just for reference, the floral still life to the left by Issaiev was in the collection of Alberto Giacometti and sold at auction for £ 5500 in 2009. (Not for sale) My painting by Issaiev at a fraction is a wonderful deal. It is beautifully framed, and in excellent condition – please email for details and photos.

I'm very much enjoying living with an acquisition I made back in December, an important oil by Kendal Coles Hopkins (American 1908- 1981):



Kendal Coles Hopkins 1908-1981 Interior Scene, oil on canvas, ca 1932, 60 x 73 cm, £ 580/ 650 Euros

It's one of the most exciting and engaging picture I've come across of late, open to endless interpretation and speculation. Looking at the painting is almost like watching a play unfold, and there is a lot of emotion.

Its subject is a young girl of Renoir-esque beauty and expressiveness, who is clearly interacting with something or someone we cannot see. But what is going on? Has she walked in on something? Is she slowly withdrawing? Is she deliberating?

The painting dates from the early 1930s. Coles Hopkins had just arrived in Paris from his native New England. It was exhibited at the Galerie Cimaies at the time – it still bears a label from the exhibition on the verso. The artist later returned to the US where he had about 20 solo shows mostly in the States, but also in Spain.

I have a little gen that is somewhat similar in spirit. It's not technically and interior scene, but I'll show it to you, anyway:



Jean-Philippe George (1818-1888) Little girl and doll
Ink on paper, signed and dated 1887, 18 x 14 cm
£ 180/Euros 200)Framed.

On the subject of little people and toys in 1887, here is a child's rocking chair dating from circa 1885. It is a gorgeous decorative object, and it is for sale. The maker is Thonet, an Austrian cabinet maker's who invented bentwood furniture. The rocking chair still bears the original Thonet labels.

Thonet chairs are in various museums – you can read more about the company here:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Thonet

It's a beautiful original ink drawing by Franco-Swiss artist Jean-Philippe George (1818-1888).

A beautiful impressionist study dated 1887, it shows, like Coles Hopkins work, a lot of tenderness and is very poetic.

I like to imagine that the little girl was very proud of her hat, while the artist probably secretly shook his head at ladies' fashions. But depicting the hat clearly amused him.

I like the stillness in the drawing – it almost has a daydream-like quality. I like the little sketched doll which I took a little time to notice.

An oil painting by Jean-Philippe George is in the Victoria and Albert Museum. He is mostly known as a landscape artist, so this is a rare intimate study.



The price is £ 200/225 Euros, knowing that an identical rocking chair sold at auction in Germany for around 500 Euros a few years ago.

Another “applied art special” is this magnificent Indian Jamawar shawl which dates from circa 1850. Note that it is signed in the centre. Handwoven and hand embroidered, these shawls took months to create.



The shawl measures 180 x 180 cm large, and is in wonderful condition. Jamawar shawls figure in museums all over the world and have been shown in exhibitions such as the recent one at Norwich Cathedral.

Our example is a January bargain at £ 440/ 500 Euros.

Let me close this newsletter with a wonderfully Césannien still life



Antoine Martinez (1913-1970) Still life with Figs and Pomegranates, oil on canvas, ca 1943, 46 x 33 cm. £485/ Euros 550.Framed

Martinez was an Algerian native, which maybe explains the choice of southern fruit. He came to study in Paris, won the prestigious Price of Rome, and exhibited at the Galerie Bernheim Jeune, the almost mythical art dealers who represented Matisse, Bonnard, Renoir.

As ever: if there is a painting or artwork that is of interest to you, be in touch and I'll be very happy to email you further photos and details. I'll also be delighted to show you the work in person in Paris, London or Norwich.

Please do forward this newsletter to anyone who you think might be interested – someone who collects art, or may simply be looking for a gift - be that your niece, cousin, mother, work colleague or best friend.

Thank you so much. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Tamara

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last not least.....Winter Sale

Lucien Madrassi

(1881-1956)

Vase de Fleurs, oil on canvas

signed lower left

38 x 55 cm

£ 450 instead of £550 (510 Euros instead of 625 Euros) Framed.

Born in Paris, Lucien Madrassi was the son of the Italian sculptor Luca Madrassi; and of Jewish descent. A member of the French Academy of Artists since 1906, he became an artist known for his depictions of North Africa; but also for a series of drawings of the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe in the 1920s. In 1930 he became official artist of the French navy. A museum devoted to his work exists in the Puy-de-Dome. Several of his works figure in the Collection of the Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne (George Pompidou Centre).