

Above: A Parisian Antiques Shop by Giovanni Boldini (1842-1931), pencil, 4 x 51/4in (10 x 13cm) – £5500 from Stephen Ongpin Fine Art.

Pencilling in a wide audience



Anna Brady reports

ENTHUSIASTIC advocates of their specialism, **Stephen Ongpin** and **Guy Peppiatt** stress that "a good drawing is always a good drawing, whoever the artist and whatever the date".

In 2007, the two London dealers moved into a gallery together at 6 Mason's Yard in St James's, next door to Jean Luc Baroni, a former colleague of Ongpin's from his ten years at Colnaghi.

While Peppiatt – previously in the British pictures department at Sotheby's – specialises in early British drawings and watercolours, particularly topographical views, Ongpin's net is cast more widely, covering drawings and oil sketches from the 16th century through to the 20th.

Both source much of their stock privately, as well as from provincial British auction rooms and, for Ongpin particularly, French auctions. Their second joint winter exhibition,

One Hundred Drawings and Watercolours

(December 1-23), encompasses four
centuries of drawings by British, Italian,
French and Northern European artists,
from an Italian 16th century pen and ink
drawing of putti by Ippolito Andreasi
(1548-1608) to watercolours of wildlife by
the contemporary artist Mark Adlington
(b.1965).

The vast majority of Peppiatt's clients are British, while the bulk of Ongpin's are European or American, but the two find that there is an increasing crossover of their clients and the aim of their shared gallery is to blur the distinction between these collecting fields.

With this Christmas show they hope to encourage new collectors of drawings, by offering more accessibly priced works, costing between £750 to £10,000 but with the majority at the lower end of this range (although there is a Jacob Epstein watercolour at £16,000).

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