

When your art is in the right place

Leading art and antique dealers reveal their go-to specialists for expert framing, lighting, restoring, valuing and shipping to Amelia Thorpe

FRAMING and lighting can make or break a painting. Poor shipping can literally break it. The right pair of hands will have a substantial impact on displaying, preserving and protecting important pieces and no one knows this better than art and antiques dealers—which is why we have asked them to delve into their little black book and share the names of the people on whom they rely for moving and displaying art. Here are 45 specialists that have earned the trust of the trade.

Framing

Antique dealer and designer Will Green relies on

Julia Korner

020-8747 1652; www.juliakorner.com

'A specialist in fine-art conservation and restoration, with a focus on paintings, sculptures and frames, she really knows her craft.'

'Frames are mostly gold leaf, distressed back to suit the work—this is an art in itself'

Laura Dadswell, director of architectural antique specialist Westland London, relies on

Graham Harrison

020-8969 4599; www.ghframing.com

'Before I sold slightly larger and rather more unframeable antiques, I sold antique maps at The Map House in Knightsbridge, London SW3. There, many of the pieces for the gallery and for clients were framed by Graham Harrison, who did a wonderful job of working with the fragile objects we sent. The company also offers a hanging service, making the whole process stress-free.'

David Messum, chairman of David Messum Fine Art, relies on

The Artistic Framing Company

023-9225 4477; www.artisticframing.co.uk

'For British Impressionist pictures, we use Peter Ashby of the Artistic Framing Company.'



Above: Antique dealer Will Green calls upon Julie Korner for the perfect frame. Facing page: Rollo Whately's framing skills are prized by James Richards and Matthew Travers

Frames are mostly gold leaf, distressed back to suit the painting—this is an art in itself.'

James Richards, director of antiquities gallery Charles Ede, relies on

Made By Harry Eagle

07967 800056; www.harryeagle.com

Fletcher Gallery Services

020-7726 4811; www.fletcherframes.co.uk

(also recommended by Matthew Travers of Piano Nobile)

Lacy Gallery

020-7229 6340; www.lacygallery.co.uk

(also recommended by Mr Travers)

Rollo Whately

020-7629 7861; www.rollowhately.com

(also recommended by Mr Travers)

Paul Mitchell

www.paulmitchell.co.uk

'A good frame is an absolutely essential part of what makes a picture truly look right—it is a detail that is often overlooked, →



Passing close inspection: Joe Robinson relies on both Hatfields and Adam Calvert Bentley to restore the most intricate of details

Antique dealer David Levi relies on Plowden & Smith

020-8874 4005; www.plowden-smith.com
 'Plowden & Smith undertakes all kinds of furniture and fine-art restoration under one roof. It appears to me that the company can do almost anything.'

Sara Stewart, founder of Fine Art Commissions, relies on Hamish Dewar

020-7930 4004; www.hamishdewar.co.uk
 'Hamish Dewar is a fantastic London-based paintings restorer. I trust his firm implicitly.'

Jamie Rountree, director of sporting, maritime and wildlife art gallery Rountree Tryon, relies on

Paola Bernardi
 020-7371 9736
Sarah O'Donoghue
 01273 841254;

www.sarahodonoghueconservation.com
 'London-based paintings restorer Paola Bernardi has returned hundreds of paintings to their former glory for us, always finding

the perfect balance between recovering and stabilising a work and retaining its originality. Sarah O'Donoghue is a talented works-on-paper conservator and a joy to work with, with a very specialised skill and knowledge, magically recovering many watercolours and drawings for us over the years.'

Valuations and appraisals

Adrian Sassoon, owner of Adrian Sassoon gallery, relies on Maak

01628 290050; www.maaklondon.com
 'Marijke Varral-Jones of Maak is the leading auctioneer of contemporary ceramics and craft. The major auction houses do this as a novelty, but Maak does it as a specialist.'

Stephen Ongpin, owner of Stephen Ongpin Fine Art, relies on Gurr Johns

020-7839 4747; www.gurrjohns.com
 'Art advisory and appraisal specialist Gurr Johns has a good team with great market knowledge, making the firm well respected in the industry.'

Will Fisher, antique dealer and founder of Jamb, relies on Andy Waters

hello.andywaters@gmail.com
 'Andy Waters offers a boutique service advising clients on the sale of their art and antiques, including the collection of the late interior designer Robert Kime. He has very good all-round knowledge.'

Rupert McBain of fine antique furniture dealer McBain & Byrne relies on Henrietta Graham

01765 640291;
www.henriettagrahamantiques.co.uk
 'Fine-art and antiques consultant and valuer Henrietta Graham is knowledgeable, helpful and good to work with.'

And finally Ask your dealer

'I usually advise returning to the dealer who sold you the piece in the first place, as they will likely have an eye for that kind of item, or to try asking a reputable auction house,' says antique dealer Nick Jones. 🐉

Daniel Crouch, owner of Daniel Crouch Rare Books, relies on Precision Lighting and Remote Controlled Lighting by Luminii

020-8947 6616; www.luminii.com

'Matthew Nourse from Precision Lighting and Remote Controlled Lighting by Luminii is a genius. We have a set of his lightweight and powerful remote-controlled motorised LED lights and they are marvellous. He also once magicked himself to New York with 12 hours' notice when some American electricians blew my lights.'

Jose Graci, director of gallery Mazzoleni Art, relies on ERCO

020-7344 4900; www.ercos.com

'We trust ERCO, which we have worked with since the gallery opened in 2014. Its lighting solutions are ideal for showcasing both modern and contemporary works, offering exceptional clarity and precision.'

'She finds the balance between recovering a work and retaining its originality'

Rupert McBain of fine antique furniture dealer McBain & Byrne relies on Kate Beard

07957 564058;

www.katebeardlighting.com

Charter Lighting

020-3051 7150; www.charter.lighting

'Well-thought-out lighting can transform a space, showing objects and pictures at their best, as well as creating an ambience that makes a room into a sanctuary. Ignore lighting at your peril. Kate Beard is both an excellent lighting designer and fun to work with. For classic picture lighting, Charter Lighting hits the nail on the head.'

Restoration

Antique dealer and designer Will Green relies on

Peter Hurley

@petehurleyrestoration

'We recommend Peter Hurley for porcelain restoration.'

David Messum, chairman of David Messum Fine Art, relies on

Paul Hahn

01372 467925; www.hahnrestoring.com

'Family firm Paul Hahn has been in the trade for many years. The team understands that the less you do, the better it is for the picture.'



Delicacy of touch characterises the work of Paul Hahn, favourite of David Messum

Adrian Sassoon, owner of Adrian Sassoon gallery, relies on Bouke de Vries

www.boukedevries.com

'Ceramic artist Bouke de Vries originally trained in restoration. He swoops in when problems arise and has such a great awareness of ceramics across many centuries and cultures.'

Joe Robinson, head of house sales and private collections at auctioneers Dreweatts, relies on

Hatfields

020-7622 8169;

www.hatfieldsrestoration.com

Adam Calvert Bentley

07545 220052;

www.adamcalvertbentley.co.uk

'Hatfields is a renowned restoration institution with clients including Claridge's, Eton, Goodwood House and the Palace of Westminster. It has worked on some of the most famous suites of furniture in the world. Other clients prefer a more word-of-mouth approach, in which case we recommend

dealer and restorer Adam Calvert Bentley, who is incredibly knowledgeable about correct treatments and understands aesthetics.'

Stephen Ongpin, owner of Stephen Ongpin Fine Art, relies on Deborah Bates

01233 813862; www.pickersdane.net

'Art-conservation and restoration specialist Deborah Bates is as comfortable working with Old Master drawings as she is with 19th- and 20th-century works and is always careful and conscientious in her approach to paper conservation. She will always be honest and will speak up if she thinks something is not worth working on or cannot be improved significantly, so as not to waste anyone's time.'

Will Fisher, antique dealer and founder of Jamb, relies on Dominic Everest

07889 441259; www.dominiceverest.com

'We use Dominic Everest for rug restoration. He's the only person who can gently take you by the hand and lead you through the opaque world of rugs.'



Subtle, yet effective, the lighting schemes created by Kate Beard bring out objects and draw a room together to atmospheric effect

David Messum, chairman of David Messum Fine Art, relies on Pack & Send

0345 873 9990; www.packsend.co.uk

'Pack & Send [is my go-to] for moving fragile *objets trouvés* and framed paintings around the world—they need careful packing to ensure their safe arrival in perfect condition.'

Adrian Sassoon, owner of Adrian Sassoon gallery, relies on K Pak

www.kpakltd.co.uk

'We have used K Pak for decades and its staff know our works of art as well as they know us. The team shipped a vast 6¼ft-high, more than half-ton ceramic work by Felicity Aylieff to TEFAF (The European Fine Art Foundation fair) in Maastricht for us this year. The piece sold to a Dutch collector and I'm sure he was relieved it didn't need shipping back to the UK.'

Jose Graci, director of gallery Mazzoleni Art, relies on Gander & White

020-8971 7171; www.ganderandwhite.com
'Gander & White offers unparalleled expertise in art logistics.'

Antique dealer Nick Jones relies on Simon Hall

01386 858555; www.simonhalllimited.com

'I first met Simon Hall through The Decorative Fair (www.decorativefair.com), where I exhibit three times a year. A few years ago, I had to send hundreds of pieces to a hotel project in Macao, China, and the team was very professional and reliable. I recommend the company to all my clients.'

Rupert McBain of fine antique furniture dealer McBain & Byrne relies on Bradleys

01748 503101; www.bradleys.ltd

'Greg Bradley of Bradleys has looked after us, both nationally and internationally, for more than 25 years.'

Isabella Bromhead, associate director of gallery and commissioning agency Fine Art Commissions, relies on Pembridge Services

020-3659 0479; www.pembridgeservices.com

'We have worked with Pembridge Services for as long as I can remember. The team is highly reliable and experienced in safely handling, transporting and even hanging works of art.'

Lighting

Laura Dadswell, director of architectural antique specialist Westland London, relies on

John Cullen Lighting

020-7371 9000; www.johncullenlighting.com

'John Cullen Lighting is one of the best in the business. We love the drama that the carefully planned lighting schemes create, with a focus on works of art and antiques that goes far beyond a picture light.'

Emanuela Tarizzo, director of Frieze Masters, relies on

TM Lighting

020-7278 1600; www.tmlighting.com

'Frieze has a long-standing collaboration with TM Lighting. At Frieze Masters, where exhibits range from antiquities to 20th-century art—Gandharan sculpture, medieval illuminated manuscripts, Dutch Golden Age still lifes and much more—lighting plays a key role in the presentation of the entire fair. Regulating brightness, tone and beam options is key and we also have to be mindful of how different surfaces absorb and reflect light, in order to create the right atmosphere and environment for each work to truly stand out.'



but is one that makes a significant difference: [I recommend] Made By Harry Eagle for personal photographs and drawings from friends, Fletcher Gallery Services for modern and contemporary art, Lacy Gallery for antique frames and Rollo Whately and Paul Mitchell for an important painting.'

Jennifer Guerrini Maraldi, owner of JGM Gallery, relies on

Blueberry's Fine Art Services

07967 879451;

www.blueberrysfineart.com

'Nik Jones's Blueberry's Fine Art offers many great services for art collectors, both private and corporate. He transports artwork with great care, he stores your art in his Wimbledon premises and custom makes amazing frames. Nik's eye for detail in all areas is meticulous.'

Matthew Travers, director of gallery Piano Nobile, relies on

Gino Franchi

020-7629 6270

'Gino Franchi for works on paper and the best hand-coloured and wrapped mounts, Fletcher Gallery Services for more contemporary artworks and Lacy Gallery or Rollo Whately (*all as before*) for period frames.'

Antique dealer Nick Jones relies on

William Campbell Fine Frames and Framing

020-7723 7730;

www.williamcampbellframes.com

'I have known Bill at William Campbell Fine Frames and Framing for more than 30 years and he has framed for my clients, friends and myself. He has a great eye and many, many years of experience in handling art in every medium.'

Jose Graci, director of gallery Mazzoleni Art, relies on

Picture London Framing

www.picturelondonframing.com

'Meticulous attention to detail and its experience in framing contemporary art makes this company our go-to choice for our exhibitions.'

Will Fisher, antique dealer and founder of Jamb, relies on

John Hinds Framing

07958 737242; www.johnhindsframing.com

'We go to John Hinds when we need frames adjusting or re-thinking. He is careful and takes a sensitive and sympathetic approach to each piece.'

Isabella Bromhead, associate director of gallery and commissioning agency Fine Art Commissions, relies on

Philip Elletson of P. R. Elletson

01672 562160; www.prelletson.co.uk

'We have worked with Philip Elletson for 28 years, as he has a wide selection of mouldings, has a wonderful eye and is very good value.'

'We love the drama that the carefully planned lighting schemes create'

Picture hanging

James Richards, director of antiquities gallery Charles Ede, relies on

London Picture Hanging

07947 142147;

www.london-picture-hanging.co.uk

'Will Backhouse of London Picture Hanging is the man for picture hanging.'

Shipping

Antique dealer and designer Will Green relies on

Convelio

www.convelio.com

'Convelio understands the safety, timeliness and careful handling of precious items.'

Laura Dadswell, director of architectural antique specialist Westland London, relies on

Martin Bros

01985 844144; www.martinbrosLtd.com

'Within the UK, Martin Bros collects many of our finds from auction houses and private sellers. The company provides weekly collections from most regional auction houses, so it offers an affordable way to transport fragile antiques.'



Thinking it through: Will Fisher of Jamb appreciates the sympathetic approach of John Hinds to framing, as well as Dominic Everest's rug expertise and Andy Waters's valuations