#### We Welcome the New Year





# Showcasing Exceptional British Art Pottery

Working with Collectors, Museums and Investors Worldwide

### With Hope in Our Hearts...

""We are all navigating this new normal together. As we lock arms virtually and try to help one another in the ways we can, our vast world suddenly feels a little smaller and a lot more connected. And for that, we are grateful."

#### Michael Dell - CEO of Dell

Spring may not be quite in touching distance, but we are starting to see the emboldened snowdrops pushing through and with it the certainty that nature and its unfailing cycle is our constant. Life emerges and hibernation is coming to an end. So too the cycles of business turn and we are left with hope that this year will see us all adapting and re-emerging with hope.

Certainly in the Antiques Trade, with Fairs still a distant memory, and shops and antique centres, for the time being at least, closed, we are all investing in our online presence. Here at AD antiques we are working on a new website and continue to be part of the steering committee that dives the British Antiques Dealer Association's website forward. THE BADA is the leading Trade association in the UK, with membership strictly vetted, not only for the quality of Stock but also the integrity of the Dealer. At times like this, where customers are wholly reliant on Condition Reports it is this integrity that is so vital to customer confidence.

### **BADA**

### The British Antique Dealers' Association

"In 2018, BADA celebrated 100 years as the premier trade association for the fine art, design and antiques trade.

Founded in 1918, BADA (The British Antique Dealers' Association) is the leading trade association for the fine art, design and antiques community. Our members are carefully vetted and selected for their wealth of experience, professional integrity, and the exceptional quality and craftsmanship of their stock.

Many BADA members are internationally recognised for their expertise and unparalleled knowledge in their chosen field of speciality. Our members have played a key role in contributing to many of the world's leading museums, galleries and public collections.

#### The BADA standard

Our members adhere to a vigorously enforced code of conduct which is laid down in the association's Bye-laws. After a thorough election procedure, our dealers continue to have their membership renewed and confirmed annually.

It is for this reason that a member of the public can have complete confidence when buying from, or selling to, a BADA member. There are approximately three hundred and fifty dealers, galleries and shops worldwide who have met the very high standards that BADA demands."

The BADA website, featuring over 25,000 items from the country's leading, most respected dealers can be visited via this link:

The BADA

## A Spotlight On

### The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead

After nearly a century in the heart of Birkenhead, Wirral, The Williamson Art Gallery & Museum is in danger of being closed due to budget cuts by the Local Council. The Williamson has been a part of the Wirral community for 92 years, where it has been much more than just a place for people of all ages to see beautiful art, it has served as a true hub of the community. It has welcomed people of all ages, of all walks of life and backgrounds throughout its time, and its closure will leave many people's lives much emptier and lonelier.

As well as its historically important permanent collection of wonderful art and artifacts, including the largest Museum Collection of the Della Robbia Factory.

The Della Robbia Factory was founded in 1894 in Birkenhead by Harold Rathbone, the ceramics factory was inspired by the principles of the Arts & Crafts movement. Rathbone moved in the circle of Pre-Raphaelite artists that surrounded William Morris and followed his ideas. He also appreciated Italian art and, having seen colourful and decorative pottery adorning churches and other buildings in Italy, wanted to being the same spirit to Britain. The workshop was led by Conrad Dressler and Giovanni Carlo Manzoni, and trained local young people as labourers. The workshop produced brightly coloured architectural and decorative designs, with their colours and materials inspired by Italian designs of the 15th and 16th centuries. Its work was sold by Department Stores including Liberty and William Morris' own company. Although the studio itself was short-lived, closing in 1906, there has always been a considerable interest in the works it produced and in my view was the factory who aspired most wholeheartedly to the principles and values of the British Art Pottery Movement

The Principle Museums Officer, Colin Simpson, has asked me to share this news with my clients in the hope that you may sign the petition urging the Museum a stay of execution.

The petition can be accessed **here** 



# And Finally....

When we are able to open the doors again, we will be back in business at the Durham House Antiques centre in Stow-on-the-Wold. If there is any item of stock you would like to inspect personally, I would be delighted to meet you there.

However, in the meantime, until the end of January I continue to offer a site wide 15% off any item of stock including complimentary packing and fully insured Shipping. Please visit us at <u>AD antiques</u>

Very best wishes, Alison