

Private Clients Group



Matthew Mullee
Director Private Clients

"Extremely helpful in all respects and I have recommended you to friends already!" John F

What's Hot At The Auctions



Grotesque High

With the fussy Victorian look out of fashion, other areas of the art market are enjoying the spotlight – including ceramics and pottery (in good, original condition). Recently, a Martin Bros Grotesque series jar and cover came in for valuation. The vendor explained he'd kept it in the loft for over 20 years as it was so ugly, but was delighted when it sold in our Design auctions for £26,000. Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder!

John Foster, Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers and BBC Antiques Roadshow expert.
sworder.co.uk

A personal and responsive service for private clients. We specialise in advice and cover for period, listed and modern homes, vehicles, yachts and motorboats, wine collections, antiques, jewellery and art on a worldwide basis.



Drip, drip: money down the drain?

The Latest Leak Detection Technology

One in four insurance claims involve water damage. "Escape of water" is an escalating insurance issue - partly due to climate change causing extreme weather, and partly due to the reduced drainage capacity from over-building. Water

sounds relatively inoffensive compared with fire, but it can cause enormous inconvenience and extensive damage - clients recently lost beloved paintings to water running down the wall from the room above; others lost a beautiful timber floor.

Leaks can damage building structures, installations and furnishings – the more so when the leak is hidden or inaccessible and goes unnoticed. Water leaks in plumbing systems and white goods are a prime example, nearly always involving collateral damage to adjacent property and personal belongings. The opposite of the 'slow' leak is the catastrophic failure where a pipe ruptures under mains pressure, causing widespread damage. Incidentally, check your home insurance covers "trace and access" - for example the costs of lifting a

marble floor to repair a burst pipe - and check the limits as we have seen losses into six figures.

But what if you could stop the leak as soon as it started? Until recently, only human intervention could limit water leak damage – the faster the water was isolated, the less the potential damage. However, now we have the technology: the new breed of Leak Detector is an automatic water shut-off system. The device continuously monitors the water flow in an installation, and when it detects a leak it cuts off the water supply before it can cause catastrophic damage.

We're now recommending leak detectors to clients – especially if they're away regularly. These systems can save a lot of heartache and hassle, detecting and stopping leaks.

Useful URLs:

laplaya.co.uk/knowledgebank/Leak_Detector.pdf
dantaet.co.uk

For more information on leak detectors, contact:

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All that glitters is NOT gold

In April, silver prices reached 1980s levels at over \$40 per ounce (The Times, 2011). As in the 1980s, decorative silver may soon be worth more molten down than as an ornamental item – resulting in a raft of thefts. If you have a silver collection, consider the following:

- Update your valuation.
- Store solid silver securely, out of sight - silver plate is worthless.
- Secure windows and doors with key operated locks/sash bolts and/or five lever mortice deadlocks.
- Set alarm systems 24/7.
- Beware visits by "police" without ID or warrant cards: thieves recently got away with jewellery worth thousands posing as police officers.

