

MSK's Opening Night Of TEFAF Dazzles Collectors With Quality Works

Bettina Zilkha, CONTRIBUTOR

I write about fashion and New York's social scene.

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.



Amy Astley

The Society of Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) hosted the opening of TEFAF New York Friday night at Park Avenue Armory. Known for exhibiting works of the highest quality, TEFAF is a favorite of high-end dealers and collectors alike. This is the second year the fair, which originated in Maastricht, has held an additional event in to New York. Proceeds from the evening will go towards MSK's work in supporting patient care and finding a cure for cancer.

"TEFAF brings the most beautiful objects - art, jewelry, furniture, silver - to New York," said Caryn Zucker, one of the evening's chairs. "We get a chance to see the best international

dealers under one roof. It's a beautiful, glamorous night. Teamed up with MSK, it's a win-win: we're raising money to cure cancer."

Dutch designer Tom Postma softened the Armory's soaring space with waterfalls of flowers in pink and white. Ruinart champagne flowed as guests, including Fiona Druckenmiller (who also chaired), Martha Stewart, Hilary Geary and Wilbur Ross, Alexia Ryan, David Kleinberg and Juan Montoya nibbled on fresh oysters, gravlax, sushi, pulled pork and dumplings. It was a fitting backdrop for the Monet and the Renoir at Richard Green, or the exquisite *pietra dura* table at Kugel.

Upstairs, at Robilant + Voena, treasures exhibited included a pair of important Poussins from 1626 that belonged to Cassiano del Pozzo (Poussin's main patron), a rare 1780 Guardi, and a Winterhalter portrait of a German lady painted in Paris in 1850, in its original, ornate frame.

"We've been exhibiting at TEFAF in Europe for the last 25 years, and it's always been the epicenter fair activity," said Edmondo di Robilant. "Maastricht has always been at the top of the agenda. So when we first heard that it would be held in New York, we were very excited to be part of it. Last year, it was incredibly successful, and considering it was the first year, it was even more so. We were very happy to participate again."

Also a second time exhibitor, rare jeweler REZA showed the highest quality stones, including an ethereal pair of emerald, ruby and diamond drop earrings.

"These earrings are one of my all time favorites," said Olivier Reza. "They have a unique pair of perfect Burmese rubies, and a perfect pair of cabochon emerald drops. It's not that easy to find two pairs that work with each other. It looks like it just happened by chance, but I ended up breaking a ring and re-cutting the stone to make one of the rubies fit correctly."

Architectural Digest was the evening's media sponsor, and Editor-In-Chief Amy Astley was visibly impressed with what TEFAF had to offer.

"I love TEFAF," said Astley. "I think it's important that we support the dealers and their beautiful pieces, and help some of these antiques to be more in style again. I like promoting all aspects of collecting; sometimes the attention is more on contemporary pieces. We like to push design forward, and not see people just using the same things. I think the smart shopper is buying now, at this fair. The quality of the work here is stunning. It's history - let's shine a light on it. Antiques are beautiful, and they are coming back."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bettinazilkha/2017/10/28/msks-opening-night-of-tefaf-dazzles-collectors-with-quality-works/#7d7c62623c58>