

Re-discoveries, the Holy Grail of Old Master dealers: we pick out four at London Art Week

From a Van Dyck once thought to be by Rubens to William Nicholson's portrait of an actress identified only weeks ago.

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Although often overshadowed by the clamour over contemporary art, Old Masters are having a pop culture moment, with the Spice-Girl-turned-fashion-designer Victoria Beckham pronouncing a new-found love of Old Masters, and Beyoncé and Jay-Z filming their [new music video in the Louvre](#).

Such interest is timely for London Art Week (until 6 July), with around 40 galleries and three auction houses exhibiting—and hopefully selling—all manner of “pre-contemporary” sculpture, paintings and works on paper around Mayfair and St James’s.

Dwindling supply is the bane of the Old Master world, and so re-discoveries are the holy grail. While the contemporary art dealer’s role is to identify the next big thing, the Old Master specialist’s quest is to find the lost or forgotten big thing, before anyone else does.

Here are a few on view this week.



Artemisia Gentileschi, Portrait of a Man (Antoine de Ville, 1630-1635) Robilant+Voena

Artemisia Gentileschi, Portrait of a Man (Antoine de Ville, 1630-1635)

Robilant+Voena, 8 Dover Street, Mayfair

This is the ultimate feminist swagger portrait. Born in Rome in 1593, Artemisia Gentileschi (daughter of the painter Orazio) was no shrinking violet despite being a woman in a man's world. Well connected, she mixed with other artists in Rome and was a prolific painter of both Old Testament heroines and big, bold portraits, though few are known today. During Robilant+Voena's exhibition in 2011, Judith Mann, the European art curator at the Saint Louis Art Museum in Missouri, attributed this depiction of the military engineer Antoine de Ville, from an American private collection, to Gentileschi. Always inventive with her placement of signatures, here the artist incorporated her initials in the silver trinkets worn around de Ville's neck. The work is priced in the region of €3m.

Read the full article here: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/preview/coming-out-four-re-discoveries-at-london-art-week>