

PRESS RELEASE

Heroes and Legends: The Classical World from Baroque to Regency

Online Exhibition

28 January – End March 2021 | www.simondickinson.com

To coincide with Old Masters Week in New York, Dickinson presents *Heroes and Legends: The Classical World from Baroque to Regency*, an online exhibition focusing on the classical world, its heroes, and its mythology. The show will be led by Johan Zoffany's monumental *Ulysses seizing Astyanax from Andromache* and Massimiliano Soldani-Benzi's dynamic bronze *Ganymede and the Eagle*.



J. Zoffany, R.A., *Ulysses seizing Astyanax from Andromache*, c. 1758-59, oil on canvas, 124.8 x 173.3 cm.

The classical world was long held up as an ideal subject for artists, and, according to European Academic hierarchies, history painting – a category that also encompassed religious, mythological or allegorical subjects – was at the pinnacle. This exhibition features a range of Old Master and 19th century paintings and sculpture and is accompanied by a brochure highlighting the narrative and relevance of each piece, to bring the show alive to an online audience. A number of the works, including the Zoffany and further examples by Sir Peter Lely, Jacques-Antoine Vallin and Robert Lefevre, among others, are new to the market.

Soldani's Baroque bronze *Ganymede and the Eagle* (c. 1714), which is known in only one other version (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge) descended in the collection of the Earls of Lanesborough at Swithland Hall. Dickinson is also showing Zoffany's Poussin-inspired *Ulysses seizing Astyanax from Andromache*, a dramatic scene from the Trojan War narrative painted just before the artist moved to London in 1760.

Among the other Italian mythological subjects are Leandro Bassano's *Orpheus Charming the Animals* and Baroque artist Carlo Saraceni's imposing painting of *The Giant Orion* (c. 1616-17).

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Although best known as a portraitist, Sir Peter Lely turned to classical revelry for inspiration when he painted *A bacchanale with nymphs, a satyr and putti* as a young artist newly arrived in England. The French Neoclassical is represented by Jacques-Antoine Vallin's *L'amour conduisant deux amants au temple de l'hymen* (1798-99), and Robert Lefevre's portrait of *The Emperor Napoleon* (1814), in which Bonaparte stands in a classical colonnade.

These and other pieces by Auguste Jean-Baptiste Vinchon, Rene Vauquelin, Mario dei Fiori and more will be exhibited online until March.

For information on Dickinson Gallery

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