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The history of Islam must be one of the world's richest and most complex, abounding in dynastic conquests, crusades and controversies, architecture, poetry, music and myth. The second-largest religion, it's also one of the oldest; in the seventh century, an illiterate merchant named Muhammad received his first revelation of the Qur'an, and the culture of his followers has blossomed across the globe ever since. No wonder, then, that the galleries dedicated to its art and artefacts are as sumptuous as its past. And as of **18 OCTOBER**, those of the British Museum are set to be even more so, as the **ALBUKHARY FOUNDATION GALLERY** opens, redisplaying the institution's Islamic collection – from a Medieval Damascene incense burner to a 19th-century Sudanese lyre – in a new space created in the shell of two historic Victorian rooms by Stanton Williams. Much to our pleasure, the curators are no slaves to the past, either, introducing contemporary works on paper to the displays – and, with them, a dialogue between cultures old and new. There's much to see and much to admire. Details: 020 7323 8299; britishmuseum.org.

BRITAIN

18-21 OCTOBER EVOLUTION, BATTERSEA PARK, LONDON SW10 **AFFORDABLE ART FAIR**. Featuring work by more than 1,000 artists, including Marc Quinn and Turner prize-winner Richard Deacon. Details: affordableartfair.com.

25-28 OCTOBER BONHAMS, NEW BOND ST, LONDON W1 **CURE 3**. Box clever: every artist/designer involved in this charity exhibition is given a Perspex cube to work with as they wish. The results (by Ron Arad, Andrew Logan and more) are varied, vibrant and very good. Details: cureparkinsons.org.uk.

18 NOVEMBER DULWICH COLLEGE, DULWICH COMMON, LONDON SE21 **MIDCENTURY MODERN**. Jules in the crown: a Czech film poster for Truffaut's New Wave masterpiece, selling at Orson & Welles, is a highlight. Details: modernshows.com.

29 NOVEMBER-7 DECEMBER LONDON **LONDON ART WEEK**. Robilant & Voena serves the ruff with the smooth, exhibiting an exquisite portrait of a frill-necked Florentine grandee. Details: londonartweek.co.uk.

OUTSIDE BRITAIN

FRANCE 23 OCTOBER ARTCURIAL, RONDPOINT DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES, PARIS **REPERTORIO SOTTASS**. Ettore de force: powerful, playful pieces from the designer's oeuvre take centre stage in this specialist sale. Details: 00 33 1 42 99 20 20; artcurial.com.

7-11 NOVEMBER LE CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE, RUE DE RIVOLI, PARIS **FINE ARTS PARIS**. Drawing, sculpture and painting from 40 galleries. Details: finearts-paris.com.

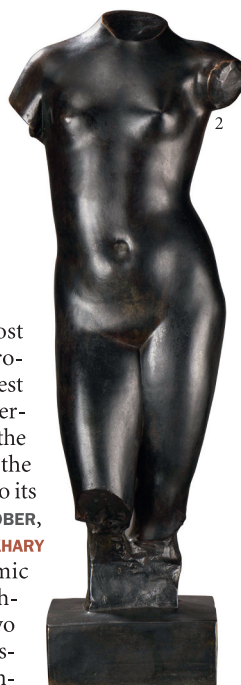
15 NOVEMBER CHRISTIE'S, AVE MATIGNON, PARIS **LES AMES EN RESONANCE**. An auction exploring Japan's influence on Western art, from shimmering shoji screens to sparkling silverware. Details: 00 33 1 40 76 85 85; christies.com.

USA 27-31 OCTOBER PARK AVENUE ARMORY, PARK AVE, NEW YORK, NY **TEFAF NEW YORK FALL**. Luxor-y item: Charles Ede exhibits a 3,000-year-old sarcophagus mask with elegant painted make-up found in the Egyptian city (known in ancient times as Thebes). Details: 001 646 202 1390; tefaf.com.

8-12 NOVEMBER PARK AVENUE ARMORY, PARK AVE, NEW YORK, NY **THE SALON ART AND DESIGN**. From work by Miró and Max Ernst to the striking ceramics at Adrian Sassoon, the fair's array of noteworthy numbers is second to none. Details: 001 212 777 5218; thesalonny.com ■

SERIOUS pursuits

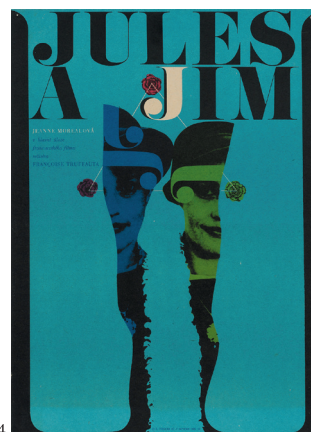
Auctions, antique fairs and diverting activities, chosen by Grace McCloud



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1 Ottoman Iznik basin, c1545, British Museum, 18 Oct. 2 Alphonse Legros, *Torse de femme nue*, 1890, Galerie Chaptal at Fine Arts Paris, 7-11 Nov. 3 Pippin Drysdale, *The Devil's Marbles* – Lizard Warming, 2017, Adrian Sassoon at The Salon Art and Design, 8-12 Nov. 4 Karel Vaca, poster for *Jules et Jim* (Czech release), 1967, Orson & Welles at Midcentury Modern, 18 Nov.



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5 Santi di Tito, *Ritratto di Francesca Gambereschi Baldovinetti*, late 16th-century, Robilant & Voena at London Art Week, 29 Nov-7 Dec. 6 Ettore Sottsass, *Empty Room*, 2004, Artcurial, 23 Oct. 7 Charles Boutet de Monvel, Art Nouveau ruby and silver belt buckle, c1902, Christie's Paris, 15 Nov



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