



Bronze table with a marble and micromosaic top by Michelangelo Barberi, 1828, from Ariane Dandois (\$875,000)



SNEAK PEAK

Paris Biennale

The ultimate celebration of French culture and taste. BY SUSAN MOORE

ONCE THE PRESERVE of high-style 18th-century French furniture and decorative arts, the Paris Biennale des Antiquaires has bowed to changing tastes. Visitors to the fair are now as likely to find Picasso paintings and Jean Prouvé chairs as neoclassical busts and Louis XV commodes. A full 40 percent of the exhibitors come from abroad, including 20th-century specialists Yves Macaux of Brussels and

L&M Arts of New York. Of course the Biennale hasn't done away with the ancien régime entirely. Distinguished old names in the Paris trade—Aveline, Ségoura, Perrin, Didier Aaron—remain the show's heart and soul.

This year's Biennale, running September 15 through 24, marks the event's welcome return to the newly restored Grand Palais after having been consigned to the gloomy vaults of the Carrousel



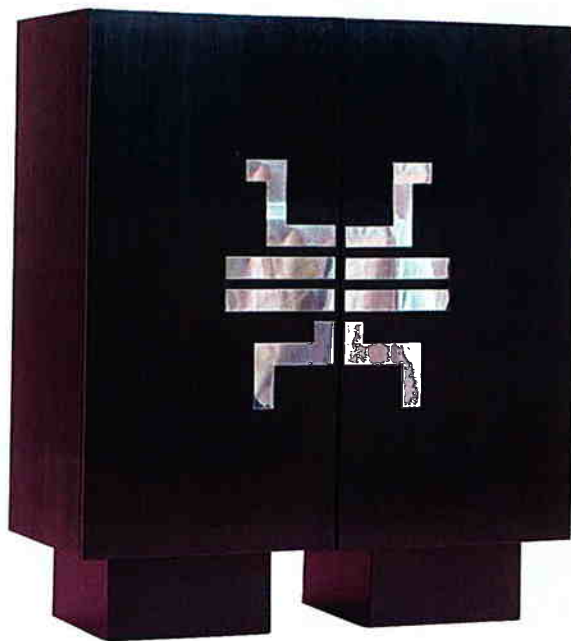
Chinese bronze Buddha, late fourth or early fifth century, from Deydier Oriental Bronzes (in excess of \$2.5 million)



"Diana upon a stag" drinking vessel by the Augsburg master Joachim Fries, circa 1610-15, from Galerie Neuse (around \$1.3 million)



Japanese-style gilt-wood gueridon by Veuve Ferdinand Duvinae, circa 1880, from Didier Aaron (\$290,000)



Darkened oak storage unit with steel ideogram by Maria Pergay, circa 1970, from Galerie Yves Gastou (\$125,000)

du Louvre since 1992. Designer François-Joseph Graf has lavished some \$2.5 million on a splashy installation and the dealer booths, which offer a profusion of museum-quality works, from medieval bronzes to Old Master paintings to Art Deco furniture. It's a sumptuous display that evokes an earlier era of collecting—

before objects of this caliber became such exceptional rarities. "For decorative, Asian, and primitive art," says Paris dealer Hervé Aaron, "the Biennale is the most important show in the world." ■
At the Grand Palais, 3 Av. du Général-Eisenhower; 33-1/44-51-74-74; biennaledesantiquaires.com.