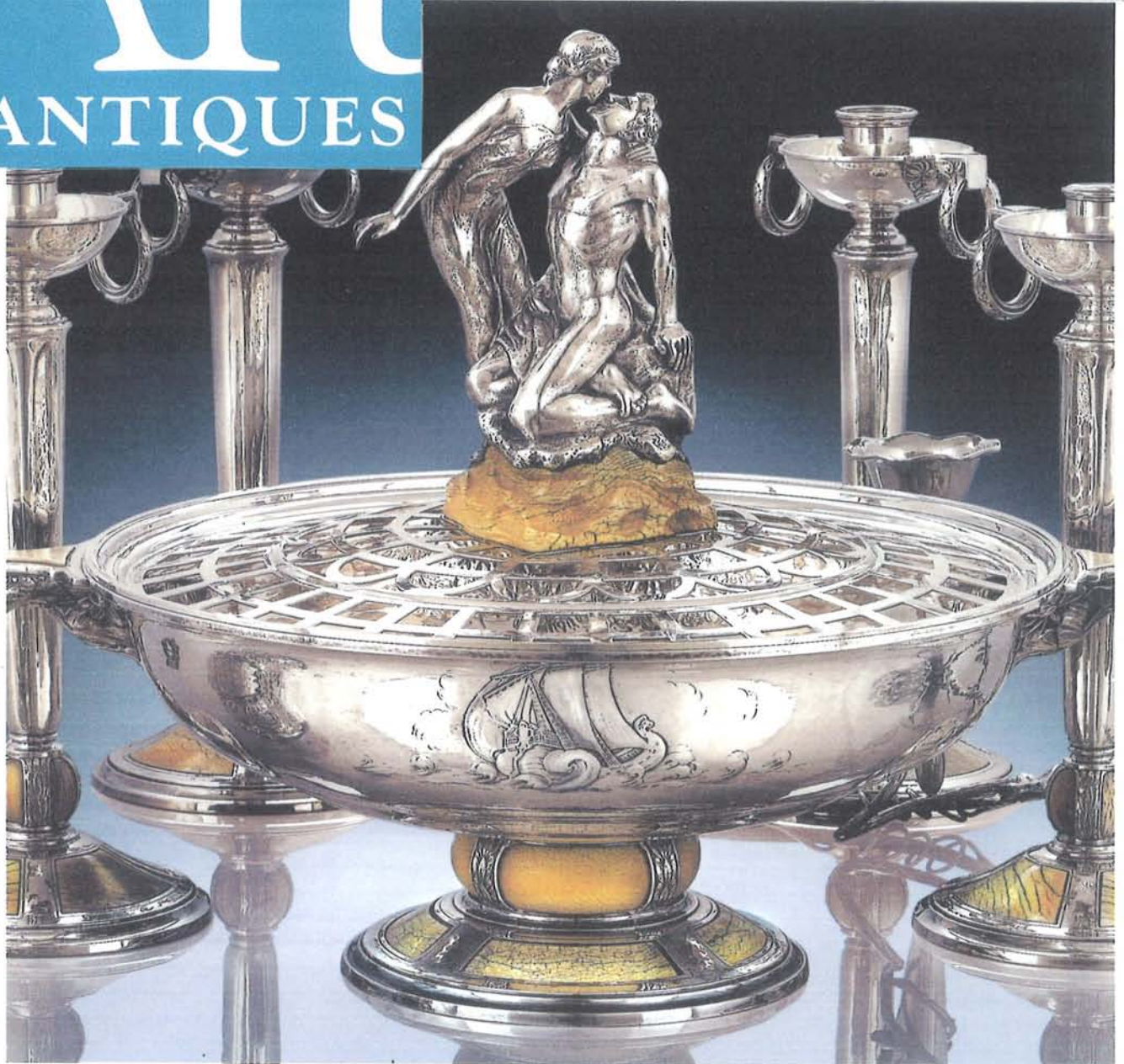


Art & ANTIQUES

JANUARY 200

FOR COLLECTORS OF THE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS



CREOLE HOME TOUR | RICHARD SERRA | GREAT AMERICAN SILVER | MARTÍN RAMÍREZ

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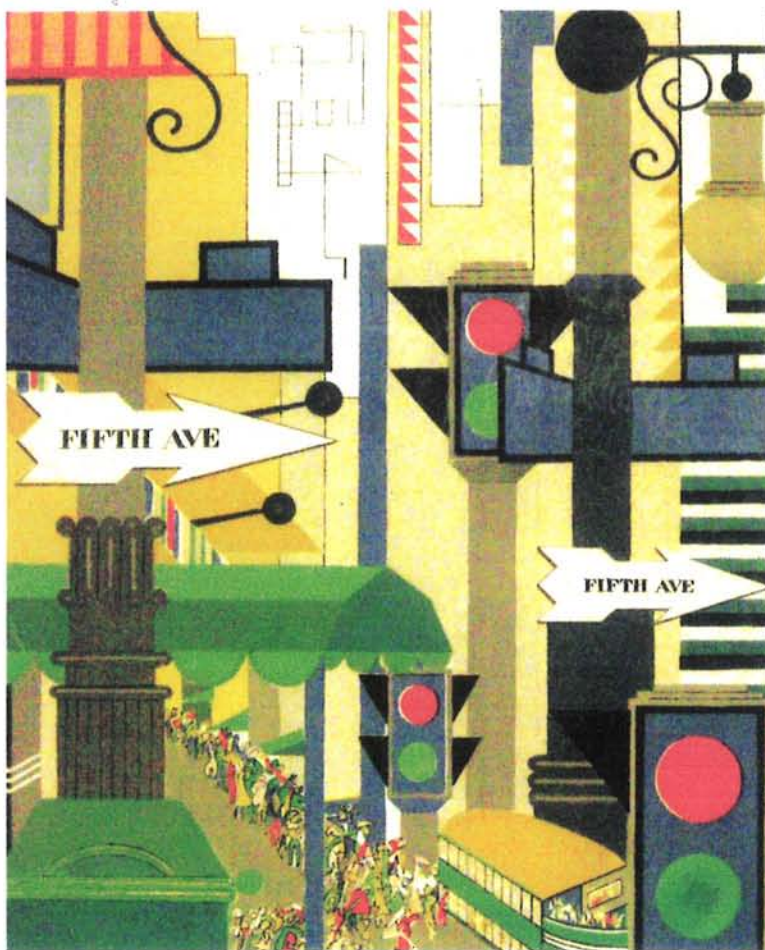
A CURTCO MEDIA PUBLICATION

AMERICAN BEAUTY

Culture Talk

THE L.A. ART SHOW DOUBLES ITS SIZE TO COMPETE ON THE WORLD STAGE.

With a new home in downtown Los Angeles and a bigger international gallery presence, the Fine Art Dealers Association's L.A. Art Show is entering its 14th year with a bang. Despite the global economic chill, show producer Kim Martindale says that moving the fair to the city's convention center, effectively doubling its size and allowing for more attendant events, makes a bold statement about the importance of West Coast art. Also moving downtown is the International Fine Print Dealers Association's 24th annual Los Angeles Fine Print Fair, which will take place in tandem with the L.A. Art Show, Jan. 21–25. On the eve of the show, Martindale discusses the growing art scene in the City of Angels.



Lee Stone Fine Prints will offer Mildred Rackley's *Fifth Avenue, 1939*, at the Los Angeles Art Show.

WHAT MAKES THE LOS ANGELES ART SCENE UNIQUE?

This is a discussion—maybe almost an argument, but I prefer it to be more of a discussion—I have with many friends in New York all the time. At present, New York really is the art center of the United States, but I see New York becoming more of the historic art center of the U.S. because there are collections (there) that can never be rivaled for certain areas of art. Just like the art center before New York might have been Paris—there are collections there that New York can't rival because they're from that time period. I see that moving west. The west still has the space and the ability to grow and expand and encompass and embrace up-and-coming artists. Europe will always be important and New York will always be important—there's no doubt about that—but I see so much more potential and excitement here in the west.

WHAT OTHER SHOWS DO YOU SEE AS COMPETITION FOR THE L.A. ART SHOW?

I don't see them as competition, I see them as comple-

mentary, and that's ArtLA. And then the same weekend as the L.A. Art Show is the IFPDA Print Fair, which happens in the same building on the same floor as the L.A. Art Show, but it's a separate component of it. So that's three important shows all on this one weekend for people to come into town to see.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THE DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY MIGHT AFFECT THE SHOW THIS YEAR?

We've never really seen (a downturn) like this, and we don't really know what this one is going to be at this point, but the seemingly smaller ones that happened were beneficial to art. People didn't want to go back into stocks, and they didn't want to go into real estate, so art became an area that people put money into.

I don't know what that means for sales. I hope they're still strong and positive, but I don't know that answer. As far as attendance to the show, I think that it could be very strong. Every year our attendance has improved at the L.A. Art Show. It started 14 years ago with about 250 people and 14 galleries, and last year it was 125 galleries and 30,000 people. Even after 9/11, it was a big decision to go forward with the fair, for security reasons, for respect reasons, and people came out in droves. I feel very optimistic. —CHRISTY GROSZ