



SERIOUS pursuits

Auctions, antique fairs and diverting activities, chosen by Magdalene Barclay

'The blast furnaces and coke ovens, with their hundreds of chimneys, planted obliquely, made lines of red flame... like giant torches.' In the flatlands of northern France lie the remnants of the coal-mining industry, made infamous by Emile Zola's *Germinal*. France's oldest-preserved mining estate, **LA CITE DES ELECTRICIENS** in Bruay-la-Buissière, will open to the public on 17 May. Rows of terraced houses constructed in 1856 for workers' families have been renovated by Philippe Prost, and the architects have also created a new purpose-built visitor's centre, clad in brilliant red glazed clay tiles, with the intention of educating the public about mining history. A changing roster of artists-in-residence will work on projects relating to the realm of raw coal in France, and an orchard and vegetable garden will provide quiet space in which to roam. Now a Unesco world heritage site, the revamped buildings offer a contemporary incarnation of the community. Sensitive to the memories of lives lived, it will ensure that the legacy of its old inhabitants is not forgotten. Details: citedeselectriciens.fr.

BRITAIN

9-14 APRIL BATTERSEA EVOLUTION, BATTERSEA PARK, LONDON SW11 **DECORATIVE ANTIQUES AND TEXTILES FAIR**. From statuary to sugar bowls, there is something for every room at this thrice-yearly fair. Details: decorativefair.com.

19-26 APRIL PHILLIPS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W1 **ARTIND AUCTION PREVIEW**. Better than a bazaar: this online sale presents one-of-a-kind silk carpets, hand-knotted in Iran and designed by architects Norman Foster, Ben van Berkel, Peter Eisenman, Sou Fujimoto, Thom Mayne, Alessandro Mendini, Peter Zumthor, and Piero and Nathalie Sartogo. Details: phillips.com.

30 APRIL MOOR PARK MANSION, RICKMANSWORTH, HERTS **THE PEDESTAL: FINE INTERIORS**. Antique furnishings by master makers: rugs and runners, long-case clocks, mirrors and silver tableware. Details: thepedestal.com.

1 MAY SOTHEBY'S, NEW BOND ST, LONDON W1 **ARTS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD**. Champing at the bit: the Ottomans loved a steed to be appropriately adorned, using chamfrons to cover horses' heads. Find a rare example here with a cintamani pattern in metal thread. Details: 020 7293 5000; sothebys.com.

8-12 MAY MULTIPLE VENUES, LONDON **LONDON CRAFT WEEK**. Look out for petal-filled peony workshops with Karen Hsu. Details: londoncraftweek.com.

10-12 MAY PETWORTH HOUSE AND PARK, PETWORTH, W. SUSSEX **THE PETWORTH PARK ANTIQUES AND FINE ART FAIR**. Paintings aplenty: Moncreiff-Bray Gallery offers fruitfully still lifes by Sarah Bowman. Details: petworthparkfair.com.

16-19 MAY SOMERSET HOUSE, STRAND, LONDON WC2 **PHOTO LONDON**. Working as a governess for over four decades, Vivian Maier was relegated to the domestic realm. That's why her photographs went unnoticed until the discovery of 120,000 negatives – now, see what history missed. Details: photolondon.com.

19 MAY BARNESLEY HOUSE, BARNESLEY, CIRENCESTER, GLOS **ARCADIA: THE ROMANTIC REBELLION**. Explore the industrial and French revolutions through the lens of the Enlightenment on this sublime study day. Details: arcadia.education.

19 MAY HAGGERSTON SCHOOL, WEYMOUTH TERRACE, LONDON E2 **MIDCENTURY EAST**. Taking place in Ernő Goldfinger's Modernist edifice, this spring show offers curious Czech and Polish film posters. Details: modernshows.com.

21-23 MAY MULTIPLE VENUES, LONDON EC1 **CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK**. The event's tenth anniversary. See vinyl artworks by Chelsea College of Arts students, inspired by the area's Dickensian history, adorn the streets. Lansdown's London will lead walking tours of the specific sites, revealing facts about the butchery trade and detention houses. Details: clerkenwelldesignweek.com. ▷

- 1 Le Centre d'Interpretation at La Cité des Electriciens, 17 May.
- 2 Sarah Bowman, *White Hyacinths and Pear Bowl*, 2019, Moncreiff-Bray Gallery at Petworth Antiques, 10-12 May.
- 3 Vivian Maier, *Chicago 1962*, 1962, Photo London, 16-19 May.
- 4 An Ottoman metal-thread-embroidered horse chamfron, Turkey, 1900, Sotheby's, 1 May.



- 5 Carved-stone head fragment depicting an early Medieval queen, 1900s, Decorative Antiques Fair, 9-14 April.
- 6 Piero and Nathalie Sartogo, rug, 2017, Phillips, 19-26 April.
- 7 Karen Hsu workshop London Craft Week, 8-12 May.