

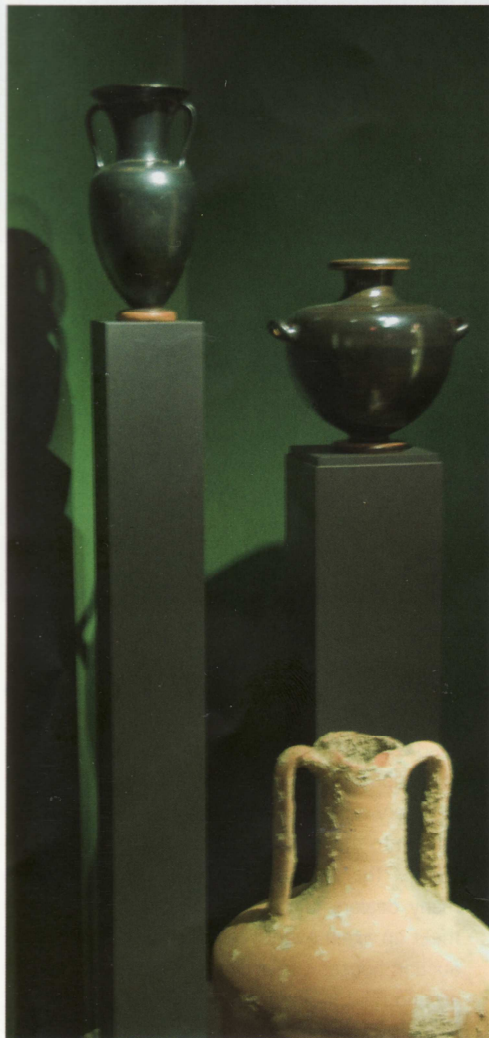
Charles Ede

For example, we find Jamie Ede of Charles Ede Ltd on the first floor of a building in Brook Street. It is a fairly compact gallery with classical antiques and Egyptian art. "My father started the business in 1971 and this is a good location. Our clients know where we are. We are exhibiting at TEFAF for the ninth time this year. It is the 'greatest show on earth'. It's impossible to compare it with any other fair when it comes to quality, diversity and size." Ede is optimistic for TEFAF 2008, despite the recent turbulence in the financial markets.

"Everyone is a little nervous. But I have to say that we have made an excellent start to the year and I believe that will continue during TEFAF. My collection for Maastricht is ready, although as always it was difficult finding the right pieces. That's 80% of the work. Buying works of the quality required for



JAMIE EDE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MAASTRICHT.
THE FIRST-FLOOR CHARLES EDE GALLERY
IN BROOK STREET.



"Everyone is a little nervous"

TEFAF is an enormous challenge. It takes a lot of energy and devotion. But I have some tremendous items. We have sent out invitations to all our clients and expect quite a few visitors from Britain and America."

They are not all coming in the first few days. "Of course everyone wants to be there for the opening but that's not possible. But every day of the fair is interesting and you have to be on your toes all the time because someone interesting could drop by your stand at any time. You have to be in good condition for TEFAF."

Jamie Ede opts to stay away from the hustle and bustle when he comes to Maastricht. "We spend the two weeks at La Butte aux Bois in Lanaken. It's lovely and quiet there on the edge of a nature

reserve. It's a really nice place to relax." For Ede, Maastricht and TEFAF is a logical combination and a successful formula. "We are treated very well in Maastricht. Everything is well organised. The only thing that seems a bit strange is the emergence of satellite fairs being held at the same time. The dealers at those fairs would be better off trying to attain a standard that would qualify them for automatic admission to TEFAF. Now they're operating in the shadows while hoping that a bit of the gloss of TEFAF will rub off on them, and that's not right."

Blairman & Sons

Martin Levy of antiquary Blairman & Sons meets us in his relatively austere shop in Mount Street.