

CATH KIDSTON PICKS HER FAVOURITE PRINTS AT THE LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR

CATH KIDSTON, HOUSE & GARDEN, MAY 5, 2020



Usually taking place at the Royal Academy, the London Original Print Fair is a brilliant event for buying original prints from the last five hundred years, encompassing everything from Old Masters to contemporary art. This year the fair has moved online until May 31. Designer Cath Kidston picks her favourites from the huge range on display

have always loved pictures and have been a compulsive collector from an early age. I began by being drawn to collecting prints in my twenties. I was on a very limited budget and you could pick up early engravings for nothing in those days. My taste is very varied but in recent years I have bought mainly abstract work, often it must be said at the London Original Print Fair. Favourites have been a beautiful Ellsworth Kelly leaf print and a small Ben Nicholson, Circles. This year I was delighted to be able to escape this strange small world I am living in and venture out into a preview of the Virtual London Original Print Fair. What a joy to have a tour all to myself!

I did feel nostalgic for years gone by, the buzz of the fair and seeing my favourite dealers and friends, but I loved the fact that I could look calmly though everything. What fun to choose my fantasy selection!

My buying is driven by emotion and I was surprised to see what I was drawn too; gentle, optimistic, rather ethereal work. I am sure I am not alone in wanting to feel closer to nature with all the horrors going in the world. I am also craving things around me that bring a feeling of comfort and optimism. So in my dream world I began by choosing Cy Twombly's series of Some Trees of Italy. Then I couldn't resist a couple of the very decorative Theodore Roussel prints and two pictures from the charming world of Ramiro Fernandez Saus. I chose Goya's magical Circus Queen, Edward Ruscha's dreamy bubbles, and two wonderful Tom Hammick night-time prints as they lifted my mood. Of course I couldn't resist Michael Barratt's Reasons to Be Cheerful and finally Ken Kiff's Bright Rainbow, which seems to sum up this year's show beautifully, surely a perfect ode to our NHS.

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