

Blazing trails towards the Pacific

Discover a thriving market which is different to the East Coast but still full of options

Report by Karla Klein Albertson

THE West Coast of the US is the water's edge where past global exploration meets the future of technology.

Along this curving coastline the last cities of the Occident face the fringe of the Orient across the Pacific Ocean.

Travellers from the UK and Europe have become familiar with the Atlantic cities along the closer coast.

But it is easy to hop aboard a cross-country flight to uncover the distinctive venues, lifestyle and scenery which are central to the art and antiques market in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle.

In this marketplace, expect more Spanish antiques than English heirlooms. For fine and decorative arts, the emphasis often falls on 20th century and contemporary works, while anything created before 1800 is rare indeed.

Illustration art, movie memorabilia, prototype computers or studio glass may merit higher price tickets than a bowfront chest. Wealthy western collectors formed some of the best Asian art collections in the world, now ensconced in museums or returning to the auction block.

In recent decades, Asian buyers have become the avid consumers, as bidders on that side of the Pacific try to buy back their heritage.

Elsewhere, Native American art and artefacts from the north-west tribes to the south-west pueblos accent the best high-end fairs or form the nucleus of speciality events.

Lucky enough to have leisure time? Mix business with a voyage of discovery and take the drive – or sail – of a lifetime along one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. While each spreading megalopolis is a centre of trade and innovation, there are stretches of windswept coast that look untouched since the sails of Magellan. ■



In this marketplace, expect more Spanish antiques than English heirlooms



Images courtesy of San Francisco Fall Art & Antiques Show

Around 60 antique dealers from the US and Europe are standing at this year's San Francisco Fall Art & Antiques Show for its four-day run at Fort Mason in the Marina District from October 27-30 with its preview gala on October 26. This year's theme is *Animalia: Animal Imagery in Art and Antiques*.

Above left: Janice Paull from Delaware will bring a selection of her speciality, English ironstone china, including this complete Mason's ironstone inkstand of c.1830 in the *Chinese Vista* pattern which is priced at **\$2900**.

Above right: furniture specialists **Daniel Stein Antiques** of San Francisco will be taking this Regency mahogany and ebony inlaid carved serving table of c.1825 to the San Francisco show where it will be priced at **\$12,000**.

San Francisco

NAMED by the Spanish, San Francisco has seen it all – gold rush money, earthquakes, hippie celebrations and the rise of tech millionaires in Silicon Valley. The City on the Bay caters to all tastes.

The queen of fairs on the West Coast is the annual *San Francisco Fall Art & Antiques Show*, now in its 35th year. International dealers such as Mallett and Peter Finer exhibit alongside the hipster Americana of epoca

Head Out: Pebble Beach and Big Sur

MANY reasons exist to head over the mountains and down along the Pacific: the famous golf course at Pebble Beach, the Monterey Bay Aquarium or the rugged beauty of the Big Sur coastline. But every August, the headline story is classic cars at the *Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance* (right), which the *Financial Times* dubbed the number one event of its type in the world.



Image courtesy of Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

Anyone can view these cars, but to show one, you have to own it. So, concurrent with the *Concours*, RM Sotheby's auctions the rarest cars on earth in nearby Monterey. Topping the list in 2016, a 1955 Jaguar D-type, which won at Le Mans, brought \$21.780m – an auction record for a British automobile – while an American Shelby Cobra CSX 2000 sold for \$13.750m.

While Los Angeles is an easy drive down Interstate 5, the adventurous traveller can take scenic Route 1 which winds along the sea. Stop near Cambria to tour San Simeon, the American castle built by media magnate William Randolph Hearst on his enchanted hill, La Cuesta Encantada.

pebblebeachconcours.net
rmsothebys.com
hearstcastle.org

and American Garage. An altogether different style of presentation comes out of the Objects of Art Shows group headed by Kim Martindale and John Morris. *The San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Show*, next staged on February 3-12, 2017, brings together artefacts from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

After that, the management mounts the 33rd *Annual American Indian Art Show* in beautiful Marin County on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge from February 17-19, 2017.

On the first Sunday of each month you can head for the *Alameda Point Antiques Faire* on an old naval air station. With the Bay and San Francisco skyline as a backdrop, thousands trawl the 800+ booths set up on the runways. Variety rules, but everything must be at least 20 years old. Enjoy unlimited free parking and a shuttle bus to the show.

Also on the schedule is a *Vintage Fashion Faire* in an old aircraft hangar near the parking area. The 'Mobster Mash' on October 14-15 will present 50 dealers with garb of every style and period, just in time for Halloween.

Museum visits

Museum buzz is all about stunning architecture surrounding the art within. Located in the South of Market district, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art expanded in May into a new building designed by local firm Snohetta which nearly triples the gallery space. On view is the Contemporary Art Collection of Doris and Donald Fisher who founded the American Gap clothing firm, based in the city.

After a 1989 quake damaged their building, the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park commissioned Swiss firm Herzog & de Meuron with Fong & Chan of San Francisco to create a unique earth-toned structure to display their collection of fine and decorative arts, including important English paintings by Lawrence, Reynolds and Constable. Opening in April 2017, the exhibition *Summer of Love* will explore the artistic explosion of the mid-'60s.

sffas.org
marinshow.com
alamedapointantiquesfaire.com
sfmoma.org
famsf.org