

Drawing on expertise...

■ Master Drawings continues to develop a winning formula



Anna Brady
reports

THOSE who love drawings know they are rarely the poor relation to paintings. Drawings can often be more personal, more expressive – and they offer affordable opportunities to own an original work by an artist whose paintings might be out of reach.

Master Drawings London 2009 is also in town from July 4 to 10.

Established in 2001, the event is now in its ninth year and is demonstrating the longevity that only comes with a good idea well executed. Nor is it resting on its laurels.

Continuing to embrace drawings from Old Masters to contemporary (people who like drawings tend to appreciate them across the centuries) this year the event casts its net a little further afield – both in terms of subject matter and geography.

Participants have traditionally been St James and Mayfair galleries but this year the 20 dealers mounting shows will extend up to Bloomsbury as **Abbott and Holder** on Museum Street join in.

Running from now to July 11 they exhibit two very different collections – the recently discovered group of 20 watercolours by James Henry Nixon (1802-1857) recording the 1839 Eglinton Tournament they bought at Mellors & Kirk last year, and a selection of male nude studies by Keith Vaughan.

Germany is a theme taken up by two of this year's participants.

Although dealing generally in 19th and 20th century art, **Theobald Jennings** have a particular penchant for German Expressionism and represent the estate of George Grosz (1893-1959) in the UK. This is their third year participating in Master Drawings week and this year they will devote a room of their refurbished gallery to 30 pencil, pen and ink, and oil sketches from the Grosz estate.

He is best known for his acerbic caricatures of Berlin life in the 1920s, but the drawings in the Theobald Jennings show are from the period after he emigrated to America in 1933, when his style softened as he turned his attention to landscapes and conventional nudes. Prices



A selection of works on paper that form part of the Master Drawings London initiative that runs from July 4 to 11.

Top: View of Olevano by Johann Joachim Faber (1778-1846), a 19 x 15in (49 x 38cm) watercolour over pencil – in the region of £35,000-40,000 from **Katrin Bellinger** at Colnaghi.



Centre left: Sitting female nude from behind by George Grosz, a 2ft 1in x 19in (63 x 48cm) charcoal on paper dated 1938 – €13,000 from **Theobald Jennings**.



Centre right: Study of a male nude by Juan Conchillos Falcó (1641-1711), 1702, black chalk heightened with white on paper, 1702, 17 x 12in (43 x 30cm) – £20,000-35,000 at **José de la Mano Galería de Arte**.



Bottom: Quai de Passy, Paris, 1900 by Paul Signac (1863-1935), watercolour and pencil, 7 x 10in (18 x 25cm) – £33,000 from **Stoppenbach & Delestre**.

as the medium has customarily been little appreciated in the country, making them fairly scarce on the international market. This is something that José de la Mano, founder of the **José de la Mano Galería de Arte**, wants to change as this year he travels to London from Madrid to participate in *Master Drawings London* for the first time.

From July 4-10, this Spanish drawings specialist will exhibit at The Air Gallery on Dover Street, W1, and brings with him a collection of almost 100 Spanish drawings from the 16th to the 18th centuries that originally belonged to María Cristina de Borbón, Queen of Spain and widow of Ferdinand VII. The entire collection is valued by José de la Mano at around €1.2m.

The bulk of the collection is related to the Enlightenment and the 18th century, including works by Miguel Jacinto Meléndez, Antonio González Ruiz, José del Castillo, Goya's brother-in-law Francisco Bayeu, Mariano Maella, and José Camarón.

CORRECTION

The exhibition of prints and drawings by Robert Austin R.A. at **Abbott and Holder**, 30 Museum Street, London WC1, will close on June 22 not June 2 as stated in the Exhibition column in ATG 1893.

range from around £4000 to £30,000.

Although based in Munich, since 2002 the Old Master drawings specialist Katrin Bellinger has been a partner at **Colnaghi**. Each year for Master Drawings week she mounts an exhibition at the Bond Street gallery which this year is titled *German Landscape Drawings 1750-1850*.

The show will include drawings by known and lesser known artists of the period, including such names as Jakob Philipp Hackert (1737-1807), Johann

Georg von Dillis (1759-1841) and Joseph Sellery (1824-1875), part of a travelling group of artists who grew particularly fond of Italy. A number of approximately 25 watercolour, pencil and chalk drawings depict Italian landscapes and all but a couple of works were sourced from one German collector. Prices will range from £10,000-40,000.

Whilst Germany is a country renowned for its strong drawing tradition, relatively few Spanish Old Master drawings survive