

## **Annual fair at Merchandise Mart kicks off with preview tonight**

**WHAT:** Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair

**WHEN:** Tonight, Preview Night; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday; 11 a.m. -

6 p.m., Sunday; 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday

**WHERE:** The Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago.

**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$15 each and will be available on site during show hours. Online ticket sales are available at [www.merchandisemartantiques.com](http://www.merchandisemartantiques.com).

**FYI:** [www.merchandisemartantiques.com](http://www.merchandisemartantiques.com) or [www.tramart.com](http://www.tramart.com)

### **For your information**

Be one of the first to attend the fair

The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair Preview Night will benefit Friends of Prentice. Preview Night is 5 to 9 p.m. today (Sept. 30) at the Mart. Tickets \$75.

Guests will be among the first to experience The Antique Fair's offerings from nearly 90 national and international dealers while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

Leigh Keno, of "Antiques Roadshow" and an editor-at-large for Traditional Home magazine, will be at the party to mix and mingle with attendees as well as host an exclusive lecture for Friends of Prentice guests at 6:30 p.m. entitled "Intimate Conversation with Leigh Keno."

The proceeds from this event benefit Friends of Prentice, which works in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Prentice Women's Hospital to advance the quality of care provided to women by investing in emerging resources and technologies including groundbreaking research protocols, clinical care programs and advanced educational opportunities.

This October's Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair is the perfect place for antique aficionados with its offerings of everything from high-end merchandise to the new Emporium, a pavilion with intriguing and trendy finds from the past presented by dealers specializing in 19th and 20th century genres and styles.

Created to be both cool and affordable, items include mid-century Modernism, Folk Art, vintage furniture, clothing, jewelry and accent pieces.

As it has in the past, the antiques fair offers Designer Docent tours, such as "How to Incorporate Antiques into a Contemporary Home" and "Selecting Antiques – for the Novice Collector," where collectors can tour vendor booths with design experts.

Another fun feature is the designer vignettes that are on display through the fair. Here leading designers have fashioned beautiful room-scapes showing how to meld contemporary furnishings with antique and vintage finds.

"My goals were to combine the old with the new to show people that decor with antiques can be very attractive," said Nora Schneider, Allied Member ASID and owner of Nora Schneider Interior Design in Chicago.

Schneider is designing one of the vignettes. "I love clean modern lines and French and Asian art and like to use these straight lines with really Old World furnishings."

Schneider, winner of the 2006 ASID Design Excellence Award for Residential Over 3,000 square-feet, said her goal was to create a dramatic vignette.

"I want to inspire people and let them know you can be bold about it," she said. "It's all about the look – it has to look good and feel good."

Clifford Wallach, an antique dealer who specializes in the Tramp Art, a unique Folk Art from the 1880s to 1940s, is also returning to the Antique Fair.

"We only do three shows a year," said Wallach, who lives in Greenwich, Conn. "The spring and fall antique fair at the Mart and a show in New York City. We choose to return to the Mart because they put on a great show and are very professionally done."

Wallach said he was loading up a truck to bring about 70 Tramp Art furnishing and accent pieces to the show.

"I'm going to be a Teamster," he laughed.

But his finds, though whimsical, are no laughing matter. Instead they create a sense of awe for the artists who created them, usually working men using a variety of discarded objects and tools as simple as a pocket knife.

"I'm bringing a full-size armoire and a very unusual Tramp Art miniature carousel with little porcelain figures such as lions and tigers that have lights on it," Wallace said. "It was made by a man in Hartford, Conn., who worked on the railroad. It was absolutely incredible. Then I also have frames made by an Illinois Tramp artist named James Zubersky whose signature trademark was big frames with sunflower corners."

Wallach is just one of more than 100 national and international antiques and fine art dealers who are exhibiting 20th century design, Americana, Asian art and antiquities, barometers, books, ceramics, clocks, Decorative Arts, Folk Art, Tribal Art, furniture, glass, paintings, posters, prints, maps, silver, textiles, sculpture and glass. The cost of attending the fair is minimum (tickets at \$15 per day) and the benefits for those interested are immense.

The kick-off event on Oct. 1 is a keynote address by Leigh and Leslie Keno of the PBS award-winning Antiques Roadshow. The following day, Jan Parr, editor of Chicago Home + Garden, is conducting virtual house tours from the pages of her magazine. She also is discussing how to arrange and display collections, how to mix antiques with contemporary furniture and how to make antiques and vintage finds look fresh. There are also 30-minute designer consultations.

This fall the Antiques Fair is integrated with "Four Days of Fabulous" at The Merchandise Mart, an event that includes the free LuxeHome Open House celebrating National Kitchen and Bath month. Carter Oosterhouse, host of HGTV's "Carter Can and Red, Hot and Green," is scheduled to give the keynote presentation.