



***World
Artefacts in
Miniature***

The Gek Contemporary

www.gekart.net

gekminiature@gmail.com

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Cover

Minoan Figure Head,

Acquired Iraklion, Crete, 2016

Bronze, Height 6 cm

Foreword

When looking for a suitable title for this exhibition, Artifacts seem to fit the bill.

“Artifact - an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historic interest.”

There was no problem with the words *World* and *Miniatures*, both fitting the bill admirably.

Collecting miniatures as a reminder of places you have visited has many benefits, the biggest amongst which is them not taking up too much room in your luggage. But for me, of course, the main purpose in purchasing them was to use them as decorative features in the doll houses. This ‘search for miniatures’ can become a bit of an obsession, not to mention a distraction, whilst travelling to the many places of cultural and historic interest. But, it has been fun!

About the Artists

Anatoli Tokarev

Born in 1946 in the Ukraine, Anatoli graduated from the Kiev Art Institute in 1970 and has had exhibitions of his works across the planet including the Canada, the USA, Austria, Poland, Australia to name a few. The two art works shown are from a series of ten he created during a stay in Andorra.

Said Messari

From Tetouan in Morocco, Said has lived and work in Madrid since 1980. He has exhibited in Spain, morocco, France, Poland, Italy, Syria, and Chile. His full profile can be viewed at,

<https://www.saatchiart.com/saidmessari>

Howard Phipps

Howard studied painting and printmaking at The Gloucestershire College of Art in Cheltenham. He is best known for his drawings and engravings of the chalk downs of Wiltshire and Dorset. For his complete profile, follow

<http://www.brookgallery.co.uk/artist.php?arid=66.html>

M. Miller

Unfortunately, Google let me down for Mr. Miller

Fong Ten Sent

Mr Fong, a silversmith, had a shop-cum-workshop in Balik Pulau, Penang, a place we visited many times. He specialised in miniatures such as charcoal stoves, woks, flasks, even an abacus which I also have in my collection. A lovely man, who sadly passed away in 2016 at the age of 73.

Objets d'art



Brass, Height 3cm

Cats

Acquired Loire Valley, France – 2000

Two cute characters from a bell foundry, somewhere in the Valley, perhaps Orleans.

Tapestry Souvenirs

Acquired Bayeux, France – 2000

The Bayeux Tapestry tells one of the most famous stories in British history – that of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, particularly the Battle of Hastings which took place in October that year.



Ceramic, Height 4 cm



Alabaster, height 5.5 cm

Etruscan Storage Jar.

Acquired Volterra, Tuscany – 2017

The Etruscan civilisation, 900 to 27 BC, covered roughly the area in Italy known as Tuscany today.

There is a suggestion that the Romans adopted many of its cultural objects following their final invasion of Etruria in 265 BC.



Alabaster, diameter,4 cm

Etruscan Oil Lamp.

Acquired Volterra, Tuscany - 2017

Greek Storage Jar.

Acquired Athens, Greece – 1993

The Mediterranean civilisations that existed between 800 BC and 500 AD, particularly the Minoan, Etruscan, Greek and Roman, shared many cultural similarities, making it a challenge to determine an artefact's true origin. Well, for me at any rate!



Alabaster, height 5 cm



Ceramic, height 10 cm

Greek Amphora.

Acquired Iraklion, Crete – 2016

Artemis, Goddess of Hunting, pictured here. She was also known as the goddess of the wild animals and the wilderness. Not a lady to be reckoned with by all accounts.

Cycladic Figure Head.

Acquired Iraklion, Crete - 2016

The ancient Cycladic island culture, 3300 BC to 1100 BC, was around at the time of the Minoans together with the Mycenaean Greeks. The similarity with the Easter Island stone sculptures in the Pacific are quite uncanny.



Bronze, height 6 cm

Minoan Vase.

Acquired Iraklion, Crete – 1999



Bronze, height 5 cm



Silver, length 6 cm and 3 cm

Malaysian Kites

Acquired Kelantan, Malaysia – 2012

The smaller kite is known as a Moon Kite, the larger one, a Cat Kite.



Silver, diameter 2 cm

Dragon Ring.

Acquired Balik Pulau, Penang, Malaysia - 2013

This is the work of Mr Fong, the Balik Pulau silversmith.

Hibiscus.

Acquired Penang, Malaysia – 1993

Malaysia's National Flower.



Silver, diameter 3.5 cm



Ceramic, height 8 cm

Snuff Bottle.

Acquired China Town, Singapore - 2018

Chinese Lions.

Acquired Penang, Malaysia - 2009

Imperial guard lions are also known in colloquial English as lion dogs or foo dogs. The male lion, identified by the ball under his paw as opposed to the cub under the female's, is traditionally placed on the righthand side of the door way.



Soap Stone, height 9 cm



Pebble, 4 x 3 cm

Indigenous Painting.

Acquired Alice Springs, Australia - 2014

Maori Jade.

Acquired Hokitika, New Zealand - 2012

The jade is from Anita Bay located at the entrance to Milford Sound. The double twist symbolizes the bonding of friendship and the Koru Spiral, new life, strength, and peace.



Jade, diameter 3 cm, height 2.5 cm

Woodcuts



Howard Phipps
Woodcut, Artist's Proof, 10cm x 5 cm

Chisel Beach in Winter

Acquired Abbotsbury, Dorset, England – 1998



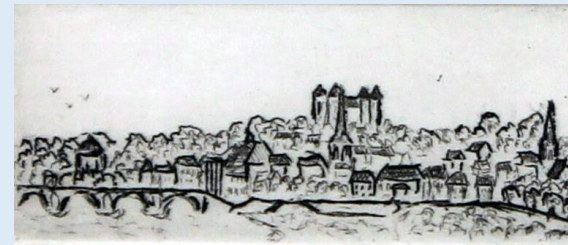
M. Miller
Woodcut, 39/50, 2.5 x 2.5

Rearing Horse

Acquired Loire Valley, France – 2000

Orleans

Acquired Loire Valley, France – 2000



M. Miller
Woodcut, 25/50, 4 x 1.5 cm



Anatoli Tokarev
Woodcut, 75/200, 5 x 3.7cm

Canolich Sanctuary.

Acquired Ordino, Andorra – 2017

The privileged alpine location, at 1,635, and being difficult to access, would have let pilgrims show their devotion to the Virgin of Canolich by ascending to the sanctuary to worship her and participate in the church's religious events.

Casa de la Vall.

Acquired Ordino, Andorra – 2017

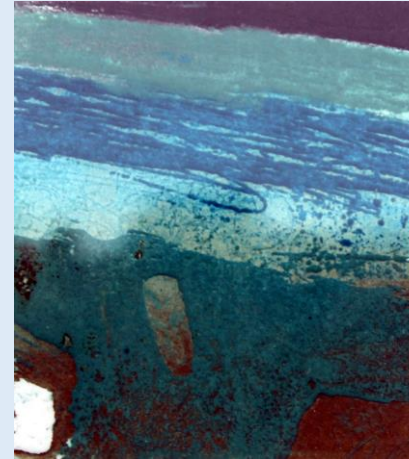
Built as a manor and tower defence in 1580, the Casa is now the headquarters of the General Council of Andorra.



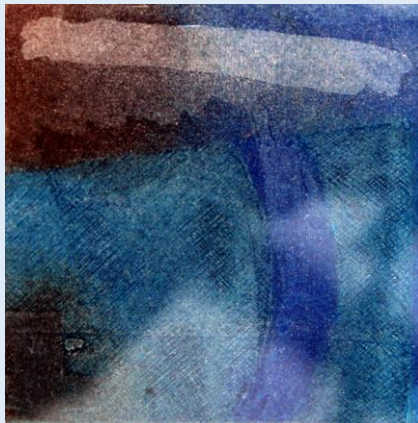
Anatoli Tokarev
Woodcut, 134/200, 5 x 3.7cm

Tiberina.

Acquired Barcelona, Catalonia – 2000



Said Messari
Woodcut, Artist's Proof, 6 x 6 cm



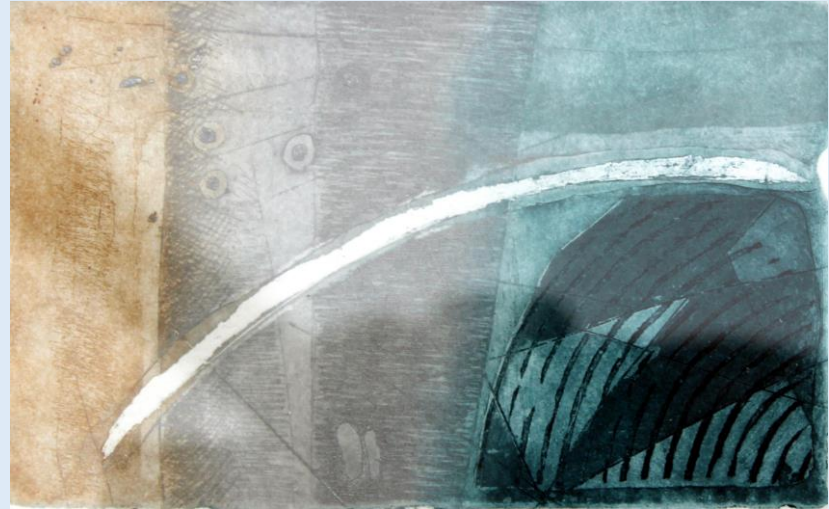
Said Messari
Woodcut, 30/35, 6 x 6 cm

Tevere

Acquired Barcelona, Catalonia – 2000

Naveganu

Acquired Barcelona, Catalonia – 2000



Said Messari
Woodcut, Artist's Proof, 6 x 6 cm

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Alice and Mary-Ann for the gifted flowers from Hualien, Taiwan, now forming part of the gallery's decoration.

Thank you for visiting the Gek Contemporary. Hope to see you again soon.