

ISSUE 22

AMERICAN FINE ART

M G A Z I N E

JULY/AUGUST 2015



Early Finds

A pre-Revolution painting by Benjamin West on display at the Debra Force Fine Art, gallery as part of their exhibition *The Figure in American Art, 1766-1971*, was one of the highlights of the *Just Off Madison* art walk held in New York City May 20 during this past spring's *American Art Week*.

The event, which concentrates on the private dealers of American art in and around Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side, includes such spaces as Debra Force Fine Art; Jonathan Boos; Betty Krulik Fine Art, Ltd.; Conner · Rosenkranz; and GRAHAM.

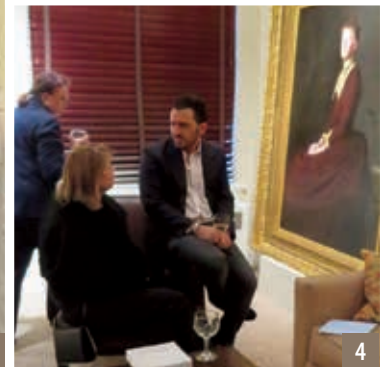
The West painting, titled *Portrait of Jonathan Grey*, was completed in 1766. Grey was an English subject, and West painted several other members of his family.

“They had wonderful gardens at their estate,” says Bethany Dobson, director of Debra Force Fine Art, “and in this painting, there is a sketch of the gardens on the table in front of him. It’s the earliest picture we have in the figurative show, and it is also in the original frame. You just don’t see that a lot, and that is what made it such an exciting find.”

Dobson believes this was one of the best-attended art walks in the past few seasons, and the evening brought many interested parties into the gallery.

“It was a great week,” Dobson says. “The event was very well-attended, and we saw many private collectors and museum people come through the doors. We also felt like there were many more people from out of town compared to other art walks in the past.”

Just Off Madison takes place twice a year, on the Wednesday of *American Art Week* in November and May. ■



1. Bethany Dobson, director of Debra Force Fine Art, with Benjamin West's *Portrait of Jonathan Grey*. 2. Joel Garzoli from San Francisco with Janay Wong of David Findlay Jr. Gallery. 3. Art dealers Howard Godel, Betty Krulik and Derita Williams. 4. Collectors lounge and take in art at Menconi + Schoelkopf on 69th Street. 5. Collectors peruse Conner · Rosenkranz.