

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MERCHANDISE MART INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUES FAIR SEES LARGE CROWDS,
AMAZING ANTIQUES, STRONG SALES**

CHICAGO (May 18, 2011) – The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair brought 103 dealers and thousands of visitors to The Merchandise Mart, Chicago from April 29-May 2. Its success once again confirms the show to be the leading antiques fair in the Midwest. The Fair was part of the Artropolis, Chicago's celebration of art, antiques and culture. Artropolis featured three separate shows which were co-located at The Merchandise Mart—Art Chicago, The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair and NEXT, which collectively brought in 53,000 visitors.

The Antiques Fair began with a Preview Party on April 28, benefiting the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC). The Preview Party hosted 800 guests, raising \$80,000 for the RIC.

This year's Antiques Fair was filled with a variety of special events and presentations. On April 29, author Craig Kellogg gave the opening presentation to The Fair, speaking about his new book *Dealer's Choice: At Home with Purveyors of Antique and Vintage Furnishings*.

In addition to the opening presentation, two other seminars rounded out the four-day event, continuing the Fair's tradition of being a place where new and seasoned collectors come to learn. Jonathan Canning, curator of Loyola University Museum of Art, interpreted the scientific findings of an 18th century Spanish portrait of a Jesuit saint.

In another seminar, editors of the newly released book "Furnishing Louisiana," Sarah Doerries and Jessica Dorman, spoke about the survival of some of the area's most prized possessions and shared tales of the disasters, along with heroic stories of restoration.

Ginny Berg, publisher of Chicago Gallery News, moderated a panel featuring 3 panelists as they shared their stories and reasons why they collect. There were more than 50 potential young collectors at the event.

The Fair also hosted a Royal Toast on April 29 to commemorate the day's nuptials of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. More than 150 guests were served cupcakes and champagne to toast the newlyweds.

From Oct. 14-16, The Merchandise Mart Fall Antiques Fair + Emporium will host about 100 antiques dealers offering a wide array of categories and price points. The Fair + Emporium will offer both experienced and novice collectors an attractive roster of high-profile speakers, charitable special events and an engaging lecture series. *Emporium* will be showcased as a special pavilion at The Fair where shoppers will discover cool and unusual finds from dealers specializing in 19th and 20th century genres.

For more information about The Merchandise Mart Fall Antiques Fair + Emporium, visit www.merchandisemartantiques.com/fall or call 800.677.6278 (MART).

MMPI is the world's leading owner and operator of showroom buildings and trade show facilities, bringing buyers and sellers together in more than 300 market events, trade and consumer shows and conferences each year. MMPI

manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 W. Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; the Boston Design Center in Boston; and the Washington Design Center in Washington, D.C.

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