

## PRESS RELEASE

### **GAVIN GARDINER LTD'S AUCTION OF MODERN & VINTAGE SPORTING GUNS & RIFLES REFLECTS THE STUNNING CRAFTSMANSHIP OF TODAY'S UK GUNMAKERS**



Gavin Gardiner's first sale of 2018 on **Wednesday, April 18** at Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA is highlighted by two magnificent guns that showcase the wonderful gunmaking talent in the UK today.

A collection of around a dozen guns by London gunmaker Frederick Beesley, includes the magnificent Presentation quality Dinosaur gun, that was among the last guns completed by this maker in 2006 and appears virtually unused. Estimated to fetch £30,000-£40,000, the gun is engraved by Bill Sinclair and its construction utilises the talent of many of the finest gunmakers working in the trade today. Comprising a Holland & Holland type self-opening

mechanism, the left lock is engraved with a mammoth against a wooded landscape, while the action base is adorned with a flying pterodactyl above a smoking volcano and the right lock is engraved with a running deinonychus.

From over the border, is a fine pair of 12-Bore "Creative Art" engraved single trigger round action over and under ejector guns by Scottish maker David McKay Brown. Engraved with large Scottish scrollwork, the maker's name is signed within a panel. Carrying an estimate of £30,000-£50,000, the maker confirms that the guns were built in 2003 and appear relatively little used and retaining virtually all of their original finish.



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Among the rifles are two interesting examples by London-maker John Rigby & Co. A scarce .470 nitro express sidelock ejector big game rifle, that the maker confirms was built in 1918 and has been in store for a good number of years is estimated at £14,000-18,000, while a fine .350 bolt-action sporting rifle which appears relatively little used and was built in 1927 is expected to fetch £4,000-6,000.

The auction of more than 200 lots of vintage sporting guns, rifles and shooting accessories, is the only sale of Sporting Guns to be held in the heart of London's Mayfair.

### **NEW FOR 2018 – GAVIN GARDINER ON YOUTUBE!**

For the first time, Gavin Gardiner has produced a series of short films on his forthcoming auction discussing auction highlights and tips on buying at auction. Have a look on YouTube <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCn2CX9pZMZ4EvuYaY4FwgVA>

#### **VIEWING:**

Tuesday, April 17 – 9am – 4.30pm

Wednesday, April 18 – 9am – 1pm

#### **FORTHCOMING 2018 VALUATION DAYS:**

Geneva	9 May
Paris	23 May
Harrogate	13 June
London	15 June
Sussex	18 June
Tiverton	22 June
Edinburgh	27 June
Glasgow	28 June
Scone Palace	29 June

**NEXT AUCTION:** August 27, 2018 – Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland

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**For further information, please visit [www.gavingardiner.com](http://www.gavingardiner.com) or call 01798 875300**

**You can follow Gavin Gardiner on Twitter @GavinGardiner and on Facebook @Gunauctioneer**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Gavin Gardiner is the only specialist firearms auctioneer holding his auctions in the heart of London's West End, where he holds two sales each year as well as his prestigious sale at the Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland in August. Gavin has over 20 years experience in this field. Coming from a traditional background, he was brought up with guns and shooting and has been involved with the Gun Trade from an early age. He first worked for Sotheby's in 1982 helping with weekend viewing of a Sporting Gun auction, while still at School. From that moment he was hooked and has been involved in almost every Sotheby's Sporting Gun auction since. His passion became a full time job in 1987 when he joined Sotheby's initially as a porter on a one day a week assignment to the Gun Department, this soon became five days and he never looked back. He has been involved with many memorable auctions over the years, including Sotheby's sales in New York and Geneva as well as the renowned Gleneagles auction that has remained the market leader in this sector for over twenty years. He has also worked for one of the leading London Gunmakers which gives him a unique perspective in this field. Returning to Head Sotheby's Sporting Gun Department Worldwide in 2001 he doubled turnover in his first year, and has continued to develop and refine the auctions since. He left Sotheby's at the beginning of 2006 to establish his own company.

April 2018