



Protecting your collections

Art and antiques have long been a favourite for collectors and investors alike but the rise in some art markets, in particular contemporary art, has seen significant increases in recent years. In May, Lucian Freud's 'Benefits Supervisor Sleeping', sold at auction for \$33million, whereas 5-10 years earlier his paintings were selling for \$5-8million.

Other areas that have seen very strong price rises in recent years include the markets for Russian and Chinese works of art. These markets are buoyed by a rapidly increasing number of very rich buyers in the home markets and as a result are more likely to remain immune from the effect of the 'credit crunch' in western countries.

This buoyant and demand driven market means that it is very important to ensure that your collection is expertly valued. Under insurance can make it difficult to replace treasured items with something comparable should the worst happen. If for example, the last valuation was carried out over 10 years ago, a picture valued at £10,000 may be worth £50,000 today. Gavin Strang of Lyon & Turnbull, one of Oval's valuation partners, advised that in a random sample of over 350 valuations in 2007 71% showed under insurance.

When a Birmingham based client was looking into the insurance requirements for his estate, Oval arranged for professional valuations of his buildings, contents and fine art collection by partners with expertise in those fields.

The expert valuation company found that he was 21% underinsured for his fine art. Likewise his remaining contents had been under-insured by 30% and still would have been by 25% based on pre-renewal figures.

In addition, the survey found that his buildings were originally 31% under-insured and still would have been 23% under based on the pre-renewal estimate.

The client said, "I am delighted that Oval raised these potential issues with me. It is reassuring to know that I am now properly protected for my buildings, contents and art collection. I was especially pleased with the interest that Oval's recommended valuation company took in my art and antiques, which has given me greater confidence in the valuation that they provided."

To find out more about how Oval can help to ensure that you are properly covered for your fine art or antiques, please contact Robbie Spear on 01924 433 119 or email robert.spear@theovalgroup.com