

The logo for IMPACT, with the word in blue and red capital letters.

AUCTION AT GALA DINNER TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF PAC REALISES IN EXCESS OF £75,000

A truly inspirational evening of Art and Food was held at the Savoy Hotel in London (tonight) Monday, November 7, 2011.

The event and the raffle were sponsored by AXA Art, the world's only art-led insurance company.

The chefs for the evening were four of the UK's greatest chefs: **Heston Blumenthal** (The Fat Duck & Dinner at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park), **Jason Atherton** (Pollen Street Social), **Brett Graham** (The Ledbury) and **Lisa Allen** (Northcote Manor) who prepared the mouth-watering menu to celebrate 25 years of PAC (formerly Post-Adoption Centre).

Among the culinary delights on offer was Tarleton pigeon wellington with sweet and sour turnip prepared by Lisa Allen; the famous meat fruit by Heston Blumenthal; loin of roe deer on shiraz lees with beetroot & smoked beef marrow by Brett Graham and for dessert: peanut butter & jelly sandwich and sheep's milk jam with blood orange granita and sangria mousse by Jason Atherton.

Among the 250 guests was Margot James MP; Tim Loughton MP; Jay Rayner; Martha Lane-Fox; Emma Forbes; Mark Hix; Tom Parker-Bowles and Tina Hobley.

Not only did the evening allow guests to sample amazingly creative food, but there was also an opportunity to purchase artworks by some of the world's most coveted artists in an auction conducted by an extremely enthusiastic Lord Dalmeny, Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's.

Highlights of the auction was Russell Young's 'Jackie Kennedy' which sparkled with diamond dust and sold for £6,500, while Julian Opie's transparent depiction of 'Gallery Staff' fetched £4,250 against an estimate of £1,800-2,000 and Dan Baldwin's silkscreen print 'Cyclone' sold for £3,200 - four times the low estimate.

The Gourmet evening was the brainchild of Guardian food writer and 'Great British Menu' judge, **Matthew Fort**, who had the support of PAC almost 25 years ago and his daughter, Lois, spoke about how the charity had helped her.

There was also a silent auction and among the lots was dinner with **Tom Parker Bowles & Matthew Fort**, which sold for £2,600; while the opportunity to accompany award winning Restaurant critic **Jay Rayner** on one of his reviews sold for £1,125 – to his delight! A stay at Le Mas Candille, in the South of France was bought for £1,000, 2 original prints by Kitty Guthrie Oakley sold for £650, a singing lesson with 'the Tenor' James Edwards, who mesmerised everyone with his performance before dinner, sold for £1,050 and a Knife set from Chroma Knives – signed by the chefs – sold for £650.

An additional lot to the evening was a box of 30 packets of Mr Trotter's Great British Pork Crackling – donated by Tom Parker Bowles and Matthew Fort – which were purchased for £500!

For further information on the charity and images of the evening please visit www.pac.org.uk/gala/ or call 0207 284 0555

For up-to-date news, follow the event on Twitter @IMPACTauction

For further Press Information:
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NOTES TO EDITORS: PAC (formerly Post-Adoption Centre) based in Kentish Town, London has been a pioneer of adoption support services since 1986. PAC's mission is to provide high quality, innovative services that support and make a difference to all those affected by adoption and permanency. PAC has developed a breadth of expertise and services which enable them to support adoptees, adopters, and birth families through their respective journeys and they want to continue to develop their work. Over 25 years, PAC has helped with almost 100,000 requests for help. PAC's expert counsellors are on hand five days a week to offer support and guidance to anyone affected by adoption, as well as provide consultation with professionals working in the field. In the past year, their Advice Line handled around 1,000 calls from throughout the UK. They have even been contacted from as far away as the Cayman Islands & Australia!

In August 2011, the Big Lottery Fund announced that PAC has been granted more than £468,000.

AXA Art is the world's only art-led insurance company. Specialising in high value home contents and buildings, art and collectibles, AXA Art insures private collectors of art, historic homes, art dealers, museums and exhibitions in the UK and internationally. Founded on the principles of personal and dedicated service, AXA Art provides worldwide peace of mind for its clients' treasured possessions. A third of AXA Art's staff are qualified Art Historians and the company prides itself on an unsurpassed knowledge of insurance combined with an unrivalled understanding of the specialist art market. Each policy is underwritten by an experienced team of underwriters, and our claims handlers and risk surveyors provide solutions for the most unusual or complex fine art insurance collections.

November 2011