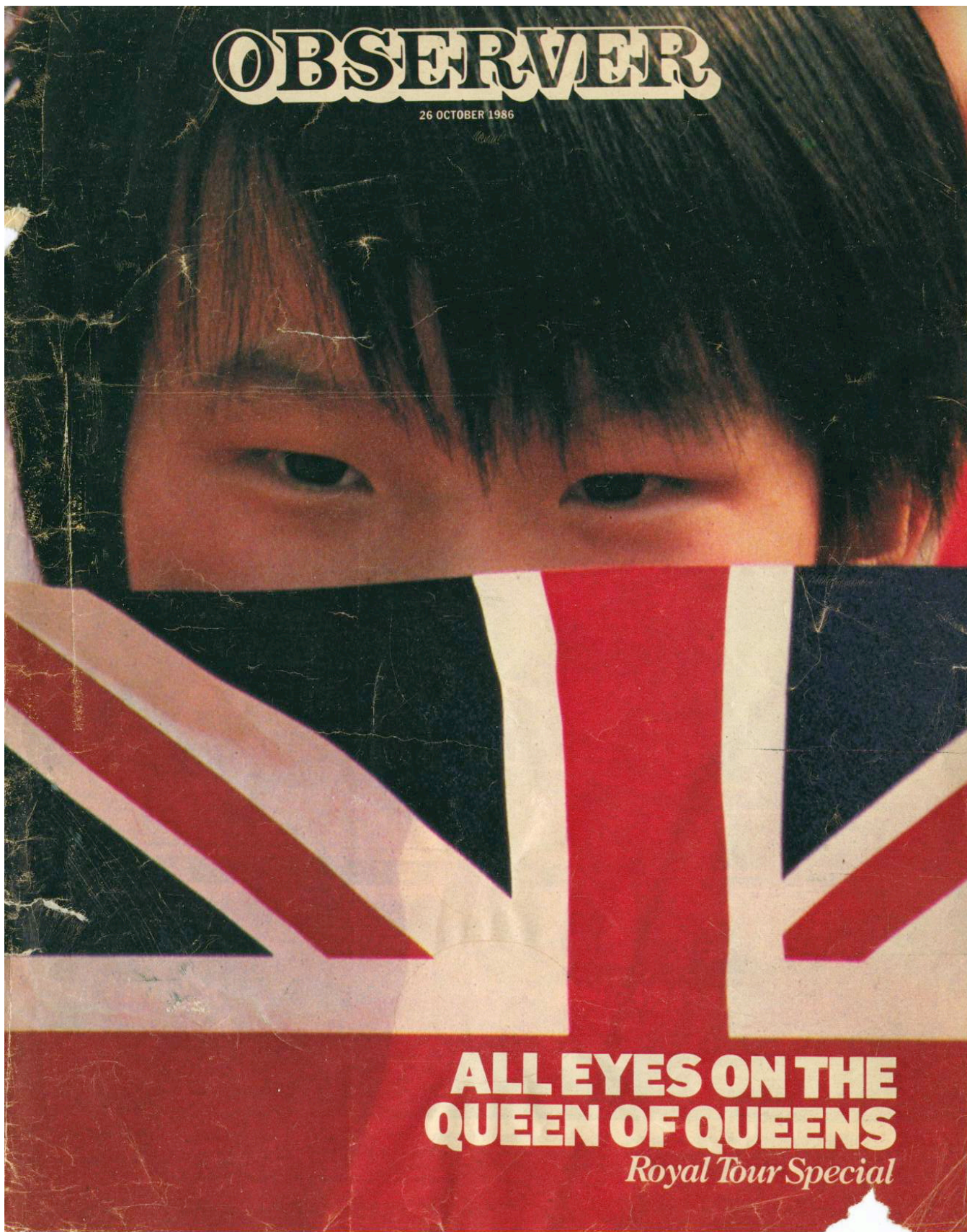


OBSERVER

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ALL EYES ON THE QUEEN OF QUEENS

Royal Tour Special



GOOD BUYS

It is still possible to buy original works of art even if you don't have trunkloads of spare cash. Good modern paintings, drawings and sculpture at bargain prices can be found at the Contemporary Art Society's unintimidating annual sale in Covent Garden, reports Sarah Howell

If you want to buy modern art but are daunted by the hush and horrible prices galleries charge and bewildered by the hurly-burly of degree shows, don't give up. Next week, from 5 to 8 November, the third Contemporary Art Society Market will be held at Smith's Galleries, 33 Shelton Street, Covent Garden between 11am and 8pm. In an atmosphere as informal as a supermarket (suitably, the do is sponsored by Sainsbury's), you can



browse among a tempting and varied selection of paintings, drawings and sculpture all at bargain prices. If you decide to buy one you can take your purchase home with you there and then.

The Contemporary Art Society, with 75 years' experience of buying work for public galleries and museums, has developed a nose for talent. The works selected for the Market are by some of the brightest artists working in Britain,

but prices are kept down. They range from £60 to £600. Many of the artists, like Sunil Patel, whose exquisite little paintings are especially tempting, are just out of art school, others like David Mach, John Bellamy and Patrick Proctor are established big names.

Next year the Society (20 John Islip Street, London SW1) is organising two informal courses on Collecting on a Budget which include taking parties to

artists' studios and visits to people who have built up interesting collections.

Painters and prices: top row, left to right: Ana Maria Pacheco, £600; David Leapman, £200; Robert McPartland, £250; Mark Wainwright, £90; John Bellamy, £600; Lucy Jones, £250; Gerard Morris, £300; Ian Darragh, £300. Second row: Nichollas Hamper, £186; Dale Barker, £150; Ian Howard, £500; Suzanne Riddoch, £145; Sunil

Patel, £120; Jeffrey Camp, £400; Richard Gilbert, £150. Third row: Stephen Chambers, £120; Trupti Patel, £350; Paul Moriarty, £350; Patrick Proctor, £600; Jane Langley, £155; Tricia Gillman, £500; Peter Griffin, £350; David Hosie, £65. Fourth row: John Hubbard, £500; Neil MacPherson, £550; William Pullen, £460; Dhruva Mistry, £500; Albert Irvin, £250; Gwen Hardie, £175; Mark Steene, £190; Robert Koenig, £260

★ THE ART OF LIVING