

# ANTIQUQUE OF THE MONTH

With Ross Mercer of Gorringes



From the sylph-like statues of Ancient Greece to Renoir's voluptuous bathing beauties, the female form never seems to lose its fascination. In the Art Nouveau era of 1880-1914, languid females such as this young lady, veiled in allegory and sensuality, were typical of the period. With loose, flowing robes and an affinity with nature, these images of womanhood flew in the face of the rigid, male-dominated art scene of the time and also chimed with the mood of the early days of female emancipation. The combination of romance and defiance of authority makes Art Nouveau a popular field with female collectors today too. Recognising their significance as a symbol of liberation rather than male fantasy only adds to their appeal.

## Into the light

International sculptor Guy Portelli unveils a new sculpture of Nelson Mandela at Canterbury Cathedral this month, in celebration of the African leader's 93rd birthday on 18 July.



## Rather Grand



Christopher Bone and Phyllis McDowell are exhibiting in The Grand Hotel, Folkestone, from 16 August-2 September, showing new works on the themes of local landscape, portraiture and still life in oil, acrylic, watercolour and mixed media. Artists' demonstrations, too, including portrait studies.

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