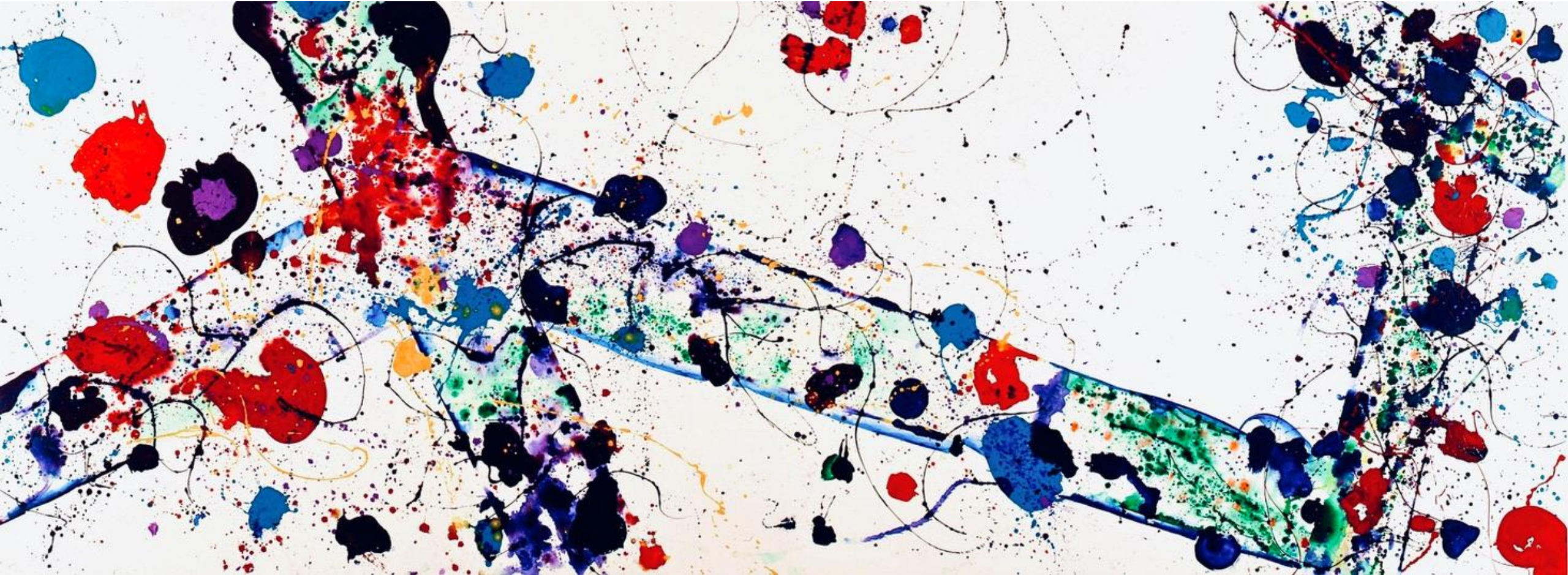


# BRAFA 2023

Press kit 26/01/2023



[brafa.art](http://brafa.art)

GALLERY DELAIVE  
San Francisco (San Mateo 1923-1994 Santa Monica)  
*Untitled, 1985*

# BRAFA's eternal youth

*From the Salle Arlequin to the Palais des Beaux-Arts, from the Palais des Beaux-Arts to Tour & Taxis, from Tour & Taxis to Brussels Expo: with each move, BRAFA has gained momentum by granting itself a little more space and comfort in new venues whilst adapting to the spirit that emanates from these successive sites. Its presence and shadow will haunt them forever, come what may.*

*Brussels Expo is an area of the capital that is steeped in history. This colossus of Art Deco architecture overlooks the city and offers various indispensable facilities. Moving, changing, renewing, metamorphosing, not resting on one's laurels and avoiding taking things for granted: in a word, this is what we mean by rejuvenation, or at least staying young. And as you will see, BRAFA hasn't aged a day.*

*In this press kit, you will find all the practical information that may be useful to you. BRAFA, ever more international, ever more convivial, ever more eclectic and always in pursuit of quality, will be diffusing the spirit of Art Nouveau, one of the jewels of Belgian art, brilliantly embodied by Horta and his emulators.*

*BRAFA, let's not forget, is a moment of ephemeral magic, but it always ends up enduring in visitor's memories. BRAFA is a privileged meeting between the solitary walker who lets his heart guide him and the passionate collector in search of the treasure he hopes to find. It is the dialogue between the latter two and the exhibitor, eager to reveal the secret of his discoveries.*

*What this press kit does not contain, and that you must discover by your own means, is the particular atmosphere that emanates from all the objects on display. A thousand words would not suffice to depict an atmosphere and a moment of emotion. But sometimes, a privileged moment alone is enough to grasp all the intensity.*

Christian Vrouyr, General Secretary of BRAFA

BRAFA will be the 1<sup>st</sup> major European art fair to visit in 2023, positioning it, as per tradition, as a true barometer of the art market. The 68<sup>th</sup> edition of BRAFA will take place from Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Brussels Expo in Halls 3 and 4, where 130 exhibitors will be taking over the entire space. This new venue, which has been welcoming BRAFA since last June, has been greatly appreciated by its visitors, both for its spacious alleys and for its very pleasant atmosphere.

Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, Chairman of BRAFA explains: *“We had a kind of trial gallop with a first BRAFA outside of our usual standards, since we proposed an event in a new space and at a different time due to a disrupted schedule. January will therefore be both a return to normality in terms of dates and also the writing of a new page in our history with Brussels Expo. Our goal today is to regain our pace and our loyal customers while developing the potential of the place.”*

Date of **creation**: 1956. It is the oldest fair in the world.

- In 2022, BRAFA moved to Brussels Expo (Heysel), a prestigious site emblematic of the World's Fairs in 1935 and 1958, which has gone on to host a number of events over the years. The venue offers easy access from both Brussels airport and from train stations, whether by metro or by car. Brussels Expo is located 20 minutes from the lively centre of Brussels, the Grand-Place, and the Antoine Dansaert fashion district.
- 130 renowned galleries from **15 countries**: Germany, Austria, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Spain, United States, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland. 35% of the exhibitors are Belgian and 65% come from abroad.
- **10.000 to 15.000** objects displayed over **21.200 m<sup>2</sup>**. **Specialities**: furniture and art objects from the Middle Ages to the present day, ancient and modern painting, contemporary art, design, sculpture, tribal art, Asian art, porcelain, silverware, ceramics, glassware, jewellery, textiles and carpets, drawings, original comic strips, engravings, rare books, photography, etc.
- For two days prior to the event, 80 to 100 **experts** from all over the world check the authenticity, quality and state of preservation of the different pieces.
- Theme of BRAFA 2023: **Art Nouveau** in its different forms.

# The 2023 theme

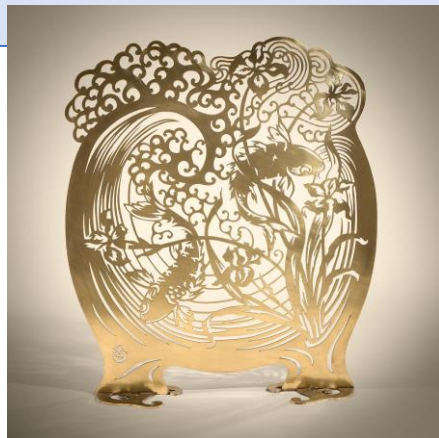
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Art Nouveau, the theme of BRAFA's 68th edition, will be addressed in several forms.

- Several BRAFA galleries will offer exceptional objects from this movement including Epoque Fine Jewels, Thomas Deprez Fine Arts, Florian Kolhammer, Galerie Cento Anni, Dr. Lennart Booij Fine Art & Rare Items, Victor Werner, Galerie Mathivet, Galerie Montanari, Marc Emanheirs, Bernard De Leye Gallery...
- Two BRAFA Art Talks will be devoted to this theme, one presented by Benjamin Zurstrassen, Curator at the Horta Museum: "Brussels 1893, the birth of Art Nouveau" and the other by Professor Werner Adriaenssens, Curator of the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Collections at the Art & History Museum: "The King Baudouin Foundation's Art Nouveau collection."
- Following a meeting with Benjamin Zurstrassen, Curator at the Horta Museum, Beatrix Bourdon, the Managing Director of BRAFA and Nicolas de Liedekerke – Daniel Culot (Volume Architecture) took inspiration from original designs by Victor Horta for the creation of the carpet, which has been produced for the second consecutive year by the Danish company EGE, the world's first sustainable carpet manufacturer. These drawings can also be found on the invitation cards of BRAFA 2023 and on the cover of the catalogue.



DR. LENNART BOOIJ FINE ART & RARE ITEMS  
René Lalique (Ay 1860-1945 Paris)  
'Six Figurines' vase, circa 1912



GALERIE MATHIVET  
Frank Scheidecker (1872-1915)  
Fire screen, circa 1902



EPOQUE FINE JEWELS  
Frédéric Boucheron (Paris, 1830-1902)  
Art Nouveau dragonfly brooch  
Diamond, sapphire, chrysoberyl, platinum, gold  
Paris, circa 1900



THOMAS DEPREZ FINE ARTS  
Philippe Wolfers (Brussels, 1858-1929)  
'Faisans et raisins' planter, circa 1901  
58 x 29 x 16 cm

# New participants

For this 68<sup>th</sup> edition, 13 galleries will be joining BRAFA for the first time.

1. Franck Anelli Fine Art (FR): antique paintings from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Flemish, Dutch and French), as well as rare inlaid furniture from the 18<sup>th</sup> century Parisian golden age
2. Ars Antiqua (IT): antique paintings, furniture and sculptures
3. Samuelis Baumgarte Galerie (DE): modern and contemporary art
4. Nicolas Bourriaud Gallery (FR): 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century French sculpture
5. Van den Bruinhorst Gallery (NL): 20<sup>th</sup>-century historical design and art objects
6. Galerie Pascal Cuisinier (FR): French design from 1951 to 1961
7. Gallery Delaive (NL): modern and contemporary art
8. Nicolas Lenté Gallery (FR): antique paintings and furniture from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries
9. New Hope Gallery (BE): furniture from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including works by American and Danish designers
10. Dr. Nöth Kunsthandel + Gallery (DE): French and German Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism and 1920s art
11. Librairie Amélie Sourget (FR): rare and valuable books, original editions
12. Van der Meij Fine Arts (NL): 19<sup>th</sup>-century European art, from North European Romanticism to Scandinavian Symbolism and Dutch painting
13. VKD Jewels (NL): fine and rare jewellery from the world's greatest designers from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries



SAMUELIS BAUMGARTE GALERIE  
Joan Miró (Barcelona 1893-1983 Palma de Mallorca)  
*Untitled VII, 1967*

# Some key pieces from BRAFA 2023

Walking around BRAFA is like slipping into a world where beauty and elegance impart a form of appeasement. Over the course of 8 days, more than 10,000 works spanning all different styles and periods will be presented by 130 internationally-renowned galleries from 15 countries. For two days prior to the opening of the Fair, the paintings, furniture, art objects, jewellery and sculptures will be analysed by more than 80 experts from around the world, studied by a scientific laboratory and monitored by the Art Loss Register.



DE JONCKHEERE (GENEVA)

Pieter Huys (Anvers, 1519-1584)

La Tentation de Saint Antoine

Oil on panel

41.8 x 57.8 cm

Pieter Huys is considered to have been a member of the group of Antwerp painters, successors of Hieronymus Bosch. The theme of this work explores the test of faith, depicting the choice between vice and virtue that is offered to each and every human being.

# Some key pieces from BRAFA 2023



## OPERA GALLERY (GENEVA)

Nicolas de Staël (Saint-Petersburg 1914-1955 Antibes)  
*Marine*, 1954  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 81 cm

This work depicts a shore near Marseille. The contrast of the red, blue and white colours lends a particular dynamic to this painting which Nicolas de Staël, an unclassifiable painter, made one year before his tragic death.

## DALTON SOMARE (MILAN)

Mask, Mukudj  
Punu, Gabon, late 19th-early 20th century  
Wood, pigments, kaolin  
H 30 cm

The mysterious, gentle but severe gaze of this white Punu mask helps us to understand why twentieth-century avant-garde artists considered them to be a source of inspiration and liked to hang them on their studio walls. Recognised amongst the aristocracy of African art and considered as one of its icons, the white Punu masks express a totally new ideal of feminine beauty which has profoundly influenced the design aesthetic and remains absolutely contemporary.



## OSBORNE SAMUEL GALLERY (LONDON)

Lynn Chadwick (London 1914-2003 Lypiatt Park)  
*Sitting Couple*, 1990  
Stainless Steel  
H 65 x W 69 x D 61 cm  
Inscribed 'C107 1/9 P.E.', Edition of 9

Under the influence of his father, Chadwick began working in a design firm, where he created his first mobiles. Starting in the 1950s, he found his own path by making more down-to-earth works with geometric shapes welded together. In 1995, the artist stopped working, declaring that, "There are only so many things to say and so many ways to say them and I've done that now."

# Some key pieces from BRAFA 2023

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GALERIE BERTRAND DE LAVERGNE (PARIS)

Figure of a golden pheasant on a rock  
Polychrome porcelain  
China, Qianlong period (1736-1795), circa 1750-  
1770  
H 35.5 cm

This golden pheasant is an admirable piece from the Qing dynasty under Emperor Qianlong that dates from the eighteenth century. The detail and the worked quality of the bird make it a very sought-after object, rare due to its imposing size.



MORENTZ (WAALRIJK)

Jean-Claude Dresse (Charleroi, 1946)  
Oval coffee table, 70s  
Agate and brass  
H 42 X W 144 x D 90 cm  
Unique piece

Jean Claude Dresse is a Belgian artist and designer. His past as a visual artist is clearly visible in his furniture creations, as he uses artistic techniques such as mosaics and engravings. His work includes creations in precious metals such as brass and copper. Jean-Claude Dresse has designed many pieces of custom furniture, which means that a large part of these objects were made to measure.



# Some key pieces from BRAFA 2023



## GALLERY DESMET (BRUSSELS)

Bartolomeo Cavaceppi (1716-1799) (attributed to)  
The Young Emperor Commodus  
White marble, marble de Saint Anne  
Rome, late 18th century  
H 72 x W 54 x D 25 cm

Commodus was a Roman emperor who ruled from 177 to 192. He served jointly with his father Marcus Aurelius from 176 until his death in 180, then ruled alone until his assassination. His reign is generally considered to have marked the end of a golden period of peace in the history of the Roman Empire, known as Pax Romana.



## GALERIE BERNARD DE LEYE (BRUSSELS)

Silver wine cooler  
Vienna, 1782  
Master Silversmith Ignaz Joseph Würth

This cooler, with a high relief representing two lion skins, surrounded by ivy and musical attributes, comes from a service that was produced between 1779 and 1782 for Albert Casimir of Saxony, Duke of Teschen, the Governor of the Austrian Netherlands, who resided at the time at the Castle of Schonenberg, now called the Castle of Laeken in Brussels.

# Some key pieces from BRAFA 2023



BERNIER/ELIADES GALLERY (ATHENS-BRUSSELS)

Marisa Merz (Turin, 1926-2019)

Untitled, 2009

Mixed media on paper mounted on plywood

H 70 x W 125 x D 5 cm

Marisa Merz (1926-2019) was one of the central figures and the only female artist to take part in the historical movement of Arte Povera. Renowned for her use of unusual materials such as copper wire, clay and wax, Merz created sculptures and drawings that reflect a poetic sensibility and gently unfurl her vision of art and life.



BARBARA BASSI (CREMONA)

Pol Bury (La Louvière 1922-2005 Paris)

Square bracelet with balls, 2004

White and yellow 18 kt gold

H 7 cm x W 5.7 x D 6 cm

Pol Bury moved away from painting in the late 1960s to take an interest in the concept of movement, especially by means of sculpture. He was one of the main protagonists of kinetic art, which can be seen indirectly in the shape of his jewels composed of arrangements of balls and cylinders.

# BRAFA Art Talks 2023

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The **BRAFA Art Talks** will take place from Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4 p.m., on the stand of the King Baudouin Foundation, No. 131, except on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Quick overview:

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023: **Aller-Retour. Dutch artists in Paris 1789-1914**, by Mayken Jonkman, Senior Curator of 19th-century art at the RKD - Institut néerlandais d'histoire de l'art

Mayken Jonkman will immerse us in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris and give an overview of the strategies adopted by Dutch artists at the time in order to succeed in the City of Lights.

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023: **Theodoor Rombouts. A virtuoso of Flemish Caravaggism**, by Dr. Frederica Van Dam, Curator of Old Masters at the Fine Arts Museum in Ghent. In partnership with CODART, the international network of curators of Dutch and Flemish art

On the occasion of its 225th anniversary, the Fine Arts Museum in Ghent will be organising the very first monographic exhibition devoted to the Flemish Caravaggist painter Theodoor Rombouts (1597-1637). Curator Dr. Frederica Van Dam will shed new light on Rombouts' artistic personality and discuss the specificities of his work.

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023: **Brussels 1893, the birth of Art Nouveau**, by Benjamin Zurstrassen, Curator at the Horta Museum

The talk will analyse the reasons for the birth of Art Nouveau, an unprecedented artistic and architectural form of expression in Brussels around 1893: its identity, its contradictions and how it differed from the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain.

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 : **Art and Money**. Round table discussion chaired by Amid Faljaoui, director of the economic magazine *Trends Tendances* and Guy van Wassenhove, curator of the Baillet Latour Fund

The panel will present the financial aspects of the art world by addressing new technologies such as the Web or NFTs, the internationalisation of the market, the contemporary boom, wealth management, tax, expertise, insurance and claims, public heritage and museum management.

# BRAFA Art Talks 2023

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Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023: **The King Baudouin Foundation's Art Nouveau collection**, by Werner Adriaenssens, Curator of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Collections, Museum of Art & History, Brussels

In the space of 20 years, the King Baudouin Foundation has built up an important collection of Belgian Art Nouveau masterpieces. Each artwork has a fascinating history that will be explained in the historical context.

This talk will be followed by: **Why heritage protection is a public/private story**, by Sabine Taevernier, vice-president of Topstukkenraad Vlaanderen. In order to better understand the functioning of 'Topstukkenraad' and to eliminate any misunderstandings regarding the protection of movable cultural heritage, the board responsible for the classification of exceptional movable property will explain its operations in a brief presentation.

Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023: **Creativity in leadership**, presented by Miluska van t'Lam, editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar (NL) in conversation with Carmen Willems, Director-General of the Musée Royal des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers (KMSKA) and Christiane Struyven, art historian and lawyer

Miluska van't Lam, the editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar magazine, will speak with two women entrepreneurs from the art world about how to connect art and entrepreneurship to develop a project, brand or business.

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023: **Diamonds: time for clarity**, by Eric Hemeleers, Chief Executive Officer at Eeckman Art & Insurance, in conversation with Cédric van den Abeele, Partner & Key Account Manager at Anglo Belge and Ellen Joncheere, Chief Executive Officer at HRD Antwerp (Antwerp Diamond High Council)

In this talk, Eric Hemeleers, together with Ellen Joncheere and Cedric van den Abeele, will identify all the risks and facets of the diamond business.

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023: **Building a digital collection: risks and opportunities for the collector**, by François Toussaint, CEO ARTTS with Sari Depreeuw, IP lawyer and partner in Crowell & Moring's Brussels office and Elie Auvray, co-founder of the logion blockchain network

Following in the footsteps of 'La dame au Pantin,' a major work by Félicien Rops, François Toussaint, Sari Depreeuw and Elie Auvray will propose an educational discovery of the potential of NFTs in the creation of a digital collection.

# Contacts and acknowledgements

We would like to extend our special thanks to our main sponsor, **Delen Private Bank**, for their support since 2007, and to all our partners.



BRAFA 2022 - Dei Bardi Art © Emmanuel Crooÿ

## Organisation

Foire des Antiquaires de Belgique asbl

Tour & Taxis – Entrepôt Royal

Avenue du Port 86 C Boîte 2 A / B-1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 513 48 31

[info@brafa.be](mailto:info@brafa.be) / [www.brafa.art](http://www.brafa.art)

## Belgian press contact & international coordination

Vanessa Polo Friz – [v.polofriz@brafa.be](mailto:v.polofriz@brafa.be)

T. +32 (0)2 513 48 31 – M. +32(0)473 250 179

## International press agencies

[Press Contact | Brafa Art Fair](#)