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BRAFA ART FAIR

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Press Release

BRAFA ART FAIR

January 28 – February 4, 2024
DIE GALERIE, Stand No. 80
Brussels Expo, Heysel, Hall 3

Since 2015, the Frankfurt am Main-based gallery DIE GALERIE presents a programme at the BRAFA Art Fair that reflects the three pillars of its work: selected pieces by the masters of modern art, this time with a prominent focus on the sculptural work of Max Ernst; a first-class selection of paintings and works on paper by CoBrA artists; the expressive paintings of contemporary German artist Johannes Heisig and, with Louise Nevelson and Karl Otto Götz, two different abstract counter-positions from 20th century art.

Visitors cannot overlook the three monumental bronze sculptures of the *Corps enseignant pour une école de tueurs* by the renowned Dadaist and Surrealist artist **Max Ernst** (1891-1976). One wouldn't wish to encounter such massive figures in the dark: Nonchalantly cowering with their hats and slouch caps - they were inspired by Egyptian cube stool statues - they are reminiscent of the tough doormen at hip Berlin clubs. In their original version in sand-lime brick, they used to adorn the driveway to Max Ernst's house in Seillans; a bronze version can be seen at the entrance to the Max Ernst Museum in Brühl and at BRAFA they "guard" the stand of DIE GALERIE. They represent the most significant sculptural ensemble of the artist's late creative phase. The central figure, entitled *Big Brother*, inevitably evokes George Orwell's novel "1984", while the supporting characters *Séraphin le Néophyte* and *Séraphine Cherubin*, once angels of light, seem to have left the celestial sphere and now cheekily make their way through the world by playing shady tricks.

The sculpture group is on display alongside other exquisite works by **Max Ernst** himself as well as his successors, his son **Jimmy Ernst** (1920-1984) and his granddaughter **Amy Ernst** (*1953), who both followed in his considerable footsteps and became respected artists in their own right.

Three canvases by **Pierre Alechinsky** (*1927) echo the triad of sculptures and highlight the focus of DIE GALERIE's work within the field of CoBrA art: all three narrow, vertical canvases carry a circular



collaged etching in their centre, to which the surrounding painting relates through poetic and symbolic associations. In *Niveau d'eau*, Alechinsky translates the undulating rhythm of the etching into a more geometric-abstract one; in both works entitled *Sauve qui peut!* he incorporates the motif of the globe into the roundel and then frames it with loose, landscape-like lines; pathways, hills and labyrinths overlap and invite our gaze to wander hither and thither.

Contemporary painting is represented by a selection of paintings by the German painter **Johannes Heisig** (*1953). One of the artist's crucial works, *Waterloo Sunset*, painted in 2019-2023, is obviously based on a 1967 song by the British band *The Kinks* bearing the same title: "Every day, I look at the world from my window | But chilly, chilly is the evening time | Waterloo sunset's fine." We share the artist's view down to a cityscape at sunset from the window sung about, but many confusing fragments restrict the gaze and direct it towards multiple representations of the artistic self.

Here, as in many of his works, Johannes Heisig's view of the world is omnipresent, be it in depictions of major events in recent history or in small-scale, seemingly simple and commonplace works or still lifes. As an often suspicious, but always attentive seismograph, Johannes Heisig explores literary, philosophical and historical themes that touch and involve him and thus ourselves.

Two different abstract positions from 20th century art, with a reduced black object box by **Louise Nevelson** (1899-1988) and a moving informal painting by **Karl Otto Götz** (1914-2017) enrich this figurative point of view.

Exhibition: DIE GALERIE at BRAFA 2024

Location: Brussels Expo, Heysel, Hallen 3 & 4, Stand 80
Place de Belgique 1, 1020 Brüssel, Belgium

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Press Pictures:



Max Ernst
Corps enseignant pour une école de tueurs, Ex. 8/8
 1967 / 2002 ff.
 Bronze · *Bronze*
 12 Exemplare: 1/8 – 8/8 + AP 1/4 - AP 4/4
 12 Casts 1/8 – 8/8 + AP 1/4 - AP 4/4



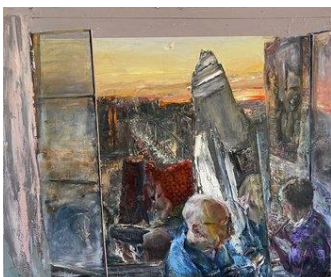
Jimmy Ernst
Untitled
 1962
 Gouache auf Vélín · *Gouache on wove paper*
 31,5 x 45,5 cm
 Signiert und datiert unten rechts · *Signed and dated lower right*



Amy Ernst
Votive Dance II
 2022
 Collage und Monotypie auf Papier · *Collage and monotype on paper*
 76,2 x 55,9 cm
 Signiert unten rechts 'Amy Ernst' · *Signed lower right 'Amy Ernst'*



Pierre Alechinsky
Sauve qui peut ! II
 2016
 Acryl und Radierung auf handgeschöpftem Papier auf Leinwand · *Acrylic and etching on handmade paper on canvas*
 144 x 76 cm
 Signiert oben links; signiert, betitelt und datiert verso auf dem Keilrahmen · *Signed upper left; signed, entitled and dated verso on the stretcher*



Johannes Heisig
Waterloo Sunset
 2019 - 2023
 Mischtechnik auf Leinwand · *Mixed media on canvas*
 160 x 190 cm
 Signiert und datiert unten links · *Signed and dated lower left*



Karl Otto Götz

Tulin

1958

Mischtechnik auf Leinwand · *Mixed media on canvas*

145 x 175 cm

Signiert unten links · *Signed lower left*



Louise Nevelson

Untitled

ca. 1985

Holz, schwarz bemalt · *Wood, painted in black*

84 x 56 x 18 cm

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