

PRESS RELEASE

A BRAFA 2016 full of punch!
Brussels, Tour & Taxis – from 23 to 31 January 2016



Power, Etienne Desmet – Francis Maere Fine Art
Photo: Emmanuel Crooÿ

Brussels, 20/01/2016 – A record number of 137 antiquarians and gallerists from 17 different countries are ready to welcome collectors and art lovers from all over Europe, from 23 to 31 January at Tour & Taxis, for the 61st edition of BRAFA (Brussels Art Fair). Thousands of artworks of a great diversity of styles and provenances ranging from archaeology to contemporary art, many of which are of museum quality, are on offer to the more than 55,000 visitors expected. Chagall, Monet and Ensor appear alongside Brueghel and Jan Fabre, among ancient busts, African masks, Asian and Oceanian creations, jewellery, ceramics and porcelain, furniture of the 18th and 19th centuries and works of twentieth-century and contemporary designers. A BRAFA in high colour, enhanced by the Ghent Floralties, guest of honour of this year's fair!

Since its move to Tour & Taxis in 2002, BRAFA has become known as the biggest event on the Belgian art market, and one of the main dates on the European calendar. Valued by collectors and European art lovers keen to discover the latest acquisitions of some of the top Belgian and international art dealers, it is much appreciated as well for the diversity and very high quality of the works presented, which provide an almost complete overview of artistic creation from Late Antiquity to the present day. The fair is also eagerly awaited by gallerists, who know they will meet a clientele known to be highly knowledgeable and faithful.

The art market has in recent years seen a preponderance of modern art as opposed to the works of old masters, probably as a result of a generational change and a relative loss of the tools for reading classical art. If this trend is also reflected at BRAFA, where specialists in the modern period are more numerous than a few years ago, it nevertheless remains the case that old masters are still amply represented and have even grown recently. Demand remains high for works of top quality: now it's up to the specialists in the sector to find the rare treasures!

Compared to last year's edition, BRAFA has added 11 new exhibitors this year (137 versus 126), made possible in particular by a redesign of the main entrance and the creation of almost a dozen new stands. Among the 137 exhibitors are 21 new galleries (8 returnees and 1-+3 first-time participants).

The Belgian contingent represents 40% of the exhibitors (55), with 60% from among our foreign colleagues (82).

Rare items, discoveries and top level works will be on display along the three wide aisles that criss-cross the Fair. Here is a small florilegium for a few specialities, which alas cannot be exhaustive ...

Archaeology

- In pre-Columbian archaeology, an object of note is the *Standing Dignitary* of green serpentine with pyrite incrustations (Teotihuacan, Mexico, A.D. 450-650) and a *Couple of figures* in hollow brown terracotta (Jalisco, Mexico, 100 B.C. – A.D. 250) at the **Galerie Mermoz** (stand no. 5c).
- **Phoenix Ancient Art** (stand no. 8c) presents a fragmentary relief representing servants, from Middle Empire Egypt (12th dynasty, around 1985-1795 B.C.), as well as an Illyrian helmet (5th century BC)
- At **Harmakhis** (stand no. 32c), a vase with handles in the shape of an ibex, of silver, from the 6th century BC; a Sumerian composite head of a deity, made of alabaster, lapis lazuli and brown limestone (2550-2250 B.C.) and a small column with incrustations, end of the 3rd-2nd millennium BC
- At **Safari** (stand no. 124b), an Egyptian hippopotamus of limestone, 4th-3rd century BC, and a Viking torc from AD 900-1000
- At **J. Bagot Arqueologia** (stand no. 53a), a Roman sarcophagus made of lead from the 2nd-3rd century AD and a bust of the emperor Caligula in marble, Rome, around AD 37-41
- At the **Günter Puhze** gallery (stand no. 99d), an amphora with twisted handles, Apulia, 4th century BC

20th century design

- One of the major attractions of BRAFA 2016 is to be seen at the stand (no. 94d) of **Frank Landau**: a dismantable house measuring 6x6m and made of wood and steel, by Jean Prouvé, conceived for refugees at the end of and immediately after the Second World War. An object that is particularly appropriate given current events... Only around 150 of this type of house were ever built, and are now very rare! Alongside it are creations of Pierre Jeanneret, a close associate of Le Corbusier, and George Nakashima
- At **Futur Antérieur** (stand no. 105c), a plaster fresco mural by Oreste Dequel from 1970
- **Pierre Mahaux** (stand no. 111c) is exhibiting an imposing mantelpiece by Alexandre-Robert Rigaut in polished steel, dating from 1975
- A rare floor lamp by Edgar Brandt at the **Galerie Mathivet** (stand no. 4c)
- **Robertaebasta** (stand no. 131b) presents a series of three monumental sculptures by Raymond Delamarre (1890-1986)

Asian art

- At **Karim Grusenmeyer** (stand no. 4d), a relief in black Pala Manjushrî stone from northern India, dating from the 11th century, as well as a sculpture in schist ('Portrait of a Donor?') from northern Pakistan / eastern Afghanistan of the 2nd-3rd c.
- At the **Jean-Christophe Charbonnier** gallery (stand no. 116c), a full set of armour from *Daimyo gusoku* bearing the coat of arms of the Matsudaira family (Japan, 18th century).
- At **Jacques Barrère** (stand no. 72b), a Shibayama lacquer cabinet with ivory and pearl inlay, Meiji era (Japan, 19th c.)
- At the **Galerie Lamy** (stand no. 43b), a ceremonial Ruyi Yung Sheng sceptre in cloisonné enamel and gilded bronze from the Qing dynasty, Yongzheng period (1723-1735)

- **Marc Michot** (stand no. 120b), presents a *Camel and rider* in terracotta from the Tang dynasty (AD 618-960.)

Ceramics and porcelain

- At **Jean Lemaire** (stand no. 120b), an anthropomorphic porcelain 'Jacquot' pitcher, Brussels, second half of the 18th century
- At **Bertrand de Lavergne** (stand no. 3c) – a pair of perfume burners in the form of quails, in polychrome cloisonné enamel, adorned with gilded bronze settings by Ferdinand Barbedienne (1810-1892)
- At **La Pendulerie** (stand no. 54a), a pair of winged lions carrying bronze baskets (Manufacture royale de Sèvres, Restoration period, around 1826-28).

Tribal art

- At **Bernard Dulon** (stand no. 76c): a standing male statue of the Bena Lulua people and a Bwende (Bembé) statue, both from Congo
- **Jacques Germain** (stand no. 81c) presents a rare *Punu* mask for the Okouyi Society, in wood, kaolin and pigment, from Gabon
- At **Didier Claes** (stand no. 9c), a double-headed Songye Kifwebe mask from Congo
- Also to be noted at **Serge Schoffel** (stand no. 108c) is a selection of objects from Africa, America and Oceania offering a tour of the world with 7 major stops, including a valuable Tihuanako palette (Chile, AD 400-1000)
- Lastly, at **Yann Ferrandin** (stand no. 88d), a reliquary Fang mask of northern Gabon representing a female figure
- **Axel Vervoordt** (stand no. 73b) is displaying a *Churinga*, a magical object of the aborigines from southern Australia, polychrome wood (18th-19th c.)

Medieval and early Modern Art

- At **Floris Van Wanroij Fine Art** (stand no. 139a) a delicate betrothal or wedding chest from northern Italy in inlaid wood, bone and horn with traces of polychrome and gilding, dating from 1390-1410
- **De Backker Medieval Art** (stand no. 127b) is exhibiting two fragments representing monks, from frescoes in the refectory of the former Dominican Convent in Ghent (14th century)
- At the **Galerie Desmet** (stand no. 39b), a white marble relief representing the Resurrection of Christ, of Venetian origin (end of the 15th c.)
- At **Porfirius** (stand no. 46a), an intriguing 'metamorphic portrait' of German origin, dated 1792
- **Mullany** (stand no. 33b) is displaying a reliquary bust of a female saint, in walnut with original polychrome and gilding, from Seville (1st half of 16th c.)

Clocks

- At **La Pendulerie** (stand no. 54a), an exceptional mantel clock in finely chiselled and gilded bronze with plaques in Sèvres porcelain by Renacle-Nicolas Sotiau, enamelled dial (Manufacture royale de Sèvres and Paris, Louis XVI era, 1782).
- At **Jacques Nève** (stand no. 95d), a clock for the Ottoman market, of English origin, around 1870

Gold and silver ware

- At **Francis Janssens van der Maelen** (stand no. 14d), an Art Déco centrepiece in silver and rosewood, by Jean Puiforcat, Paris, around 1935
- **Philippe d'Arschot** (stand no. 42b) is offering a very rare notebook of the Prince-Bishop of Bamberg (Germany, 1640) as well as a large gilded silver basin from Augsburg, dated 1595.

- At **Dario Ghio** (stand no. 102d), worth noting are a silver clock depicting *Hercules carrying the world* (Paris, around 1860), a triangular inkwell in petrified wood and silver, as well as 2 exceptionally sized bindings in vermeil, one of them Russian (Moscow, 1770), the other Greek.

Old Masters

- At **Florence De Voldère** (stand no. 2c), *The Peasant Wedding Dance* by Pieter Breughel the Younger, painted in 1624
- At the **De Jonckheere** gallery (stand no. 89d), a portrait of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach the Younger
- **Jan Muller** (stand no. 129b) is offering an important *Portrait of Prince Philip of Orange* painted by Frans Pourbus II, dated 1599
- At **Costermans** (stand no. 123b), *Ambush* by Sébastien Vrancx
- At **Mullany** (stand no. 33b), an oil on wood panel depicting the *Death of the Virgin*, Passau, end of 15th c..
- After the Russian artists featured in 2015, **Kunstberatung** (stand no. 119b) is devoting its entire stand to old Masters, with works by Anthonis Mor, Pieter Coecke Van Aelst, Denis Van Alsloot, etc.

Antiquarian books

- To be discovered at **Sanderus Antiquariaat** (stand no. 45a), a map printed on vellum (*'Paskaarte Vertonende alle de Zèkusten van Europa'* [map showing all the coasts of Europe]) extremely rare, dating from 1655-1666 (only 5 known copies).
- At the **Librairie Lardanchet** (stand no. 50a), an original folio of 42 lines of the Gutenberg Bible (1452), first book printed using movable type in Europe, alongside a complete *Iconographie du genre camelia*, in 3 volumes, offered by **Eric Speeckaert**.

Modern painting

- Worthy of note at the **Stern Pissarro Gallery** (stand no. 121b) is a painting by Claude Monet (*Seine near Vétheuil, Stormy Weather*, from 1878) and another early Gauguin from Rouen, *Saint-Ouen Church*, dated 1884.
- At **Thomas Salis art & design** (stand no. 94d), *La grande allée*, a large-scale work by Paul Delvaux from 1964
- Marc Chagall is represented at the **Boulakia** gallery (stand no. 143a) with *The Bride and Groom* (1979) as well as at **Francis Maere Fine Art** (stand no. 55a), with *The Kosher Butcher*, a gouache dated 1971.
- Gerhard Richter is present at the **Jörg Schuhmacher** gallery (stand no. 90d) with several works in lacquer
- The **Galerie des Modernes** (stand no. 75c) is exhibiting a rare portrait of Henri Rousseau (known as 'Le Douanier Rousseau') that will soon be on display at the Musée d'Orsay during the retrospective devoted to the painter
- Probably the largest work being shown at BRAFA this year is a painting by Karel Appel (*'Witnessing the Dawn'*) on display at de **Die Galerie** (stand no. 56a): 300 x 290 cm!
- Victor Vasarely is to be seen in several galleries, notably **Pascal Lansberg** (stand no. 10c), **Robertaebasta** (stand no. 131b)
- Various works by Magritte and by Lucio Fontana are being shown at the stand of the **Galerie De Jonckheere** (no. 89d)

- **Patrick Lantz** (stand no. 15d) features an oil on canvas by Francis Picabia, *Les arbres en fleurs à Villeneuve-sur-Yonne*.
- First appearance at BRAFA of the Swiss painter Sam Szafran, presented by **Claude Bernard** (stand no. 25c), with a watercolour on silk from 1987
- **Pascal Lansberg** (stand no. 10c) offers several creations by Pierre Soulages, Victor Vasarely, Manolo Valdés and Tom Wesselmann
- **Oscar De Vos** (stand no. 117c) is displaying a top ranking selection of Belgian painters: Emile Claus, Léon De Smet, Frits Van den Berghe, Hubert Malfait, etc.
- Walter Leblanc is present at **Whitford Fine Art** (stand no. 60a), notably with *Torsions 40F144* from 1964-65, as well as at **Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke** (stand no. 27c), who is also displaying a striking Pierre Alechinsky, *Kids*, from 1964, and a vintage Fernand Léger, *The Divers*, dated 1942.

Sculpture

- At **Xavier Eeckhout** (stand no. 29c), a bronze *elephant with tiger* by Roger Godchaux
- *La pensée* by Albert Couturier (1905-2008) is on display at the **Galerie Martel-Greiner** (stand no. 140a)
- A magnificent bronze *Bust of a Woman* by Alberto Giacometti is being exhibited by **Galerie Boon** (stand no. 78c)
- **Francis Maere Fine Arts** (stand no. 55a) presents *Power*, a unique sculpture in the form of a fist, by Etienne Desmet from the 1950s (perhaps the heaviest object in the Fair, weighing in at 2.2 tonnes!)
- Other busts, this time military ones, at **Burzio**, include that of the French General Cambronne by Jean-Baptiste Joseph de Bay, from around 1816, and at **Klaas Muller**, (stand no. 106c), that of the Dutch Admiral Michiel de Ruyter (around 1670-1680)
- To be discovered at **Claude Bernard** (stand no. 25c) is *Picador* by Pablo Gargallo, dating from 1928-34
- Four monumental sculptures appear to guard the stand of **Victor Werner** (no. 13d), works by 'Joop' van Lunteren (the Netherlands, around 1921-22)

Carpets and tapestries

- **N. Vrouyr** gallery (stand no. 31c) has devoted its entire stand to the highly spatial creations of the Spanish artist Javier Fernandez (born in 1942) – a must-see!
- Worth noting at **De Wit Fine tapestries** (stand no. 109c), a scene of pastoral life in wool and silk, Southern Low Countries circa 1530

Contemporary art

- *Evanescence* and *fragile*, a work by Claudio Parmiggiani made of soot and smoke on wood adorns the stand of **Meessen De Clercq** (no. 93d)
- **Guy Pieters** (stand no. 142a) features an exhibition of Jan Fabre titled 'Sacrum Celebrum', curated by Melania Rossi, bringing together a series of Carrara marble sculptures on the theme of the human brain
- **Albert Baronian** (stand no. 64a), not to be outdone, offers several works by the famous British duo Gilbert & George
- At the **Patinoire Royale**, (stand no. 49a), a mural by Jesus Rafael Soto titled *Courbes immatérielles* combines mixed media, aluminium rods and nylon thread (1982)
- An UFO is there to be discovered on the stand of **Jos Jamar** (no. 65a)... This is *Bing II*, representing a flying saucer by Panamarenko, among works by Léon Spilliaert, Pierre Alechinsky and Jan Fabre!

- For a touch of irony, the **Jablonka Maruani Mercier Gallery** (stand no. 69b) is showing *Art Fair*, an oil on canvas by Eric Fischl...

Comic strips

- At Huberty & Breyne (stand no. 133a), an original cover of a 'Quick and Flupke' by Hergé

BRAFA - Brussels Art Fair - 23→31.01.2016

Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 86 C – 1000 Brussels

www.brafa.be

Please follow BRAFA on Twitter @BRAFA_Brussels, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube.

Press contact for Belgium and foreign coordination

Bruno Nélis - b.nelis@brafa.be - mobile +32(0)476.399.579