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To celebrate its 60th anniversary, BRAFA is honouring the Belgian collector in a selection by the King Baudouin Foundation

On the occasion of the 60th Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair, the organisers have chosen to honour “The Belgian Collector”. Breaking with its tradition of inviting a museum or cultural institution, BRAFA is honouring the Belgian collectors whose collaboration it has so valued over all these years. BRAFA asked the King Baudouin Foundation to select and present a number of private collections that demonstrate the quality and diversity of private collections in Belgium.

Visitors to the fair will thus have the opportunity to discover old and modern paintings, silverwork, tribal art, pieces of decorative art and old drawings. All are important works that have never, or only rarely, been exhibited. They can be described as the ambassadors of the ten or so collections represented, each of which has been assembled not only with great passion by the collector, but also with a love for our heritage.

The Foundation has selected collections whose owners expressed a particular desire for them to be left in total or partial perpetuity, in museums or elsewhere, in Belgium or abroad.

The collector has always cared about our heritage. Indeed, from the 19th century, collectors were key actors in saving and handing down our heritage and many public collections were born out of a private donation. Public bodies carried on the tradition, though mainly with an educational role in mind. From this point in time, the development of two types of collections could therefore be observed: the one public, with more of a scientific research objective, and the second private, reflecting the life and personality of the collector. These days, we can observe a certain rapprochement between these two types of collection as public collections turn increasingly to the private collector, sometimes temporarily, sometimes definitively, with a view to completing the story they wish to tell.

BRAFA and the King Baudouin Foundation would like to express their grateful thanks to the collectors who have agreed to participate in this project. Belgium is often described as a country of collectors and it is hoped that the presentation created by the King Baudouin Foundation at BRAFA will offer visitors to the fair a moment of special pleasure and perhaps also the inspiration to start their own collection.

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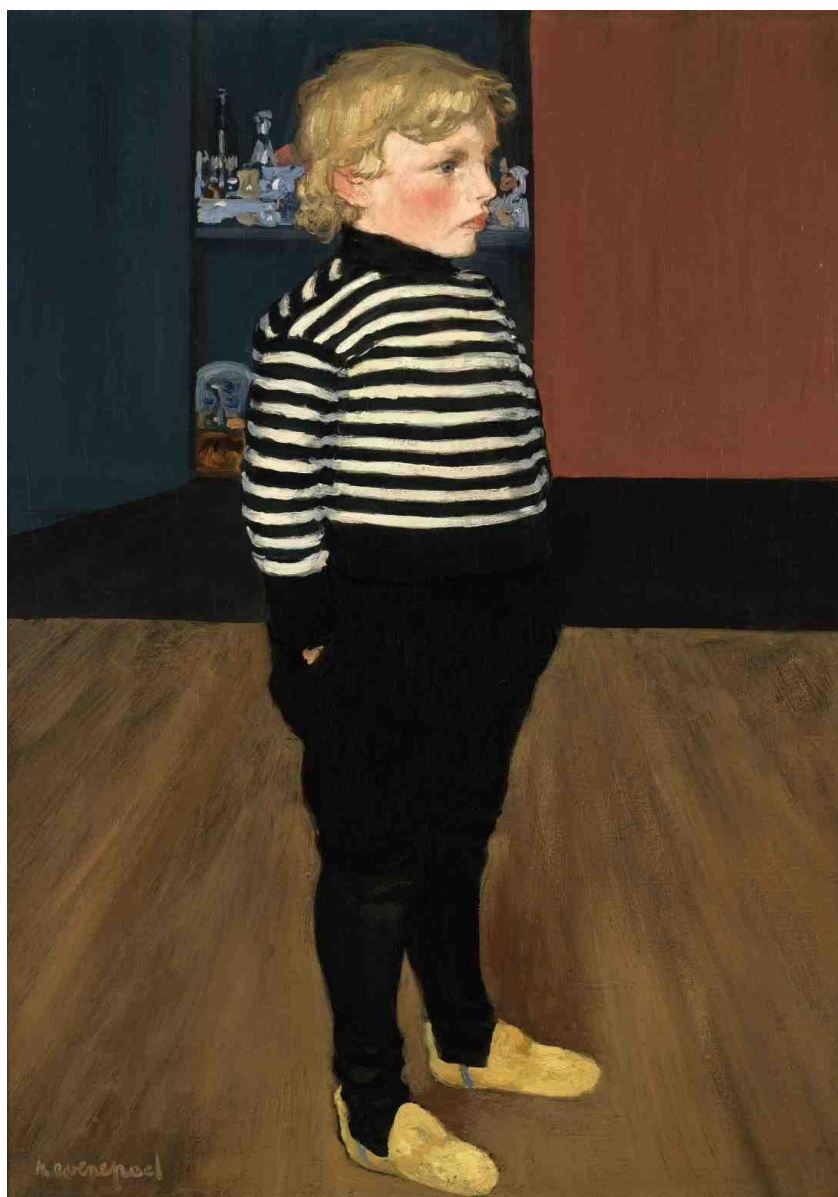
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A silver ewer belonging to Peter Paul Rubens, Théodore I de Rasier, 1635-1636, donated by Pierre and Colette Bauchau, The Rubens House, Antwerp, ©Hugues Dubois



*Charles au jersey rayé, Henri Evenepoel, 1898, donated in honour of Anne and André Leysen,
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