



04/02/2014

PRESS RELEASE

**New record number of visitors and increased sales:
BRAFA is on top form!**

The organisers of BRAFA (*Brussels Art Fair*) were hoping to achieve their target of 50,000 visitors at the 2014 Fair: they did it, with more than 55,000 visitors passing through the doors of this unmissable gathering for art lovers and collectors. The exhibitors were also thrilled by the number of sales they made and by the fact that more people than ever had come to the Fair from right across Europe. BRAFA is becoming more and more established every year!

“A breath of fresh air and optimism!” This is how one regular BRAFA exhibitor defined the 59th Fair (25/01/2014-02/02/2014), which ended with undisputed success – as well as setting a new record of 55,000 visitors. More significantly, however, was the number of sales recorded over the course of the 10 days, which, for many gallery owners, was higher than they had experienced at any of the past 11 Fairs held at Tour & Taxis.

“It was probably one of the best Fairs, if not the best. Not only have we achieved a new all-time high for the number of visitors passing through our doors, which was beyond our dreams, but our exhibitors are also thrilled and the majority did a great job. The pace of sales kicked off strongly at the pre-opening evenings and this high level was sustained throughout the whole week and into the last weekend. The enthusiasm that we witnessed before the opening of the Fair was transformed into real interest and this success reinforces our long-term policy of constant improvements for the Fair and its international outlook. It also demonstrates that the art market in Belgium is in fine health”, explained Harold t’Kint de Roodenbeke, Chairman of BRAFA.

Among the exhibitors, including many from abroad, there were a number who noticed that the visitors were increasingly coming from other parts of Europe; they were also pleased to have secured a number of new contacts. The presence of buyers and visitors from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, America, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Russia was remarkable. There was also a delegation from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Besides the well-informed collectors – whose vast expertise is always appreciated by the exhibitors – many museum directors and conservators were present, some who had crossed the Atlantic to be there. This goes to show that the Fair’s significance is continuing to rise. Finally, it is interesting to note that the new series of *BRAFA Art Talks* was given a very enthusiastic reception, attracting large audiences each day.

The next BRAFA – the 60th – will take place **from 24 January to 1 February 2015**. The organisers are sure to put on a show worthy of the anniversary celebrations!

www.brafa.be

Some sales

88-Gallery

Among the items this gallery sold was a large Italian sofa made in the 1950s in the style of Ico Parisi.

Galerie AB

Notable sales included three Hans Hartung works and a drawing by Félicien Rops entitled, *La Pudeur de Sodome (Sodom's Modesty)* (1888), which was reserved by the Rops museum in Namur.

Aktis Gallery

Sold many works, including paintings by Zao Wou-Ki, Gao Xingjian, Léopold Survage and others.

Helene Bailly Gallery

A successful Fair for this gallery's contemporary artist Katrin Fridriks; several of her works were sold.

Galerie Berger

This gallery's sales included, in particular, a rare Louis XV-style lean-to writing desk, varnished, with Jacques Dubois stamp.

Galerie Alexis Bordes

International collectors purchased this gallery's most beautiful piece, a portrait bust of Madame Récamier by Joseph Chinard.

Brenske Gallery

Sold several icons to, among others, two new Russian clients.

Carpenters Workshop Gallery

This gallery had a very successful Fair. On the first evening a Russian collector bought several pieces of furniture by contemporary designers, such as Wendell Castle and Rick Owens.

Claes Gallery

Sold practically everything on its stand, including a remarkable Songye Nkisi statue (Congo).

Costermans

Parted with their *Study of shells, butterflies and insects* by Jan Van Kessel the Elder (1626-1679), as well as an Italian neoclassical mirror from the late 18th to early 19th century; a Louis XV-style dresser, a Directoire-period console and a landscape by Jan Breughel the Younger (1601-1678).

Galerie Cybèle

This gallery's sales included, in particular, a *relief showing horses of the royal retinue*, Egypt, 18th dynasty, reign of Akhenaton, and a *head of Venus or of Apollo Sauroktonis*, Greece, 1st-2nd century BC.

De Backker Medieval Art

A new client purchased the *Saint Michael triptych*, which originated from southern Spain and dates from the middle of the 15th century.

Galerie Delvaille

More than a dozen pieces sold, of which 11 were to new clients!

Galerie Oscar de Vos

Several important sales of works by Albert Saverys, Hubert Malfait (*The Newlyweds*, 1927), Constant Permeke, Gustave De Smet, Emile Claus, James Ensor and others.

Galerie Bernard Dulon

The Fair is flourishing, as we expected it to, according to the owner of this gallery. Its sales included a *ritual spoon*, Dan tribe, Ivory Coast.

Yann Ferrandin

A very encouraging first appearance; sold a Gouro mask from the Ivory Coast.

Galerie Fleury

This gallery sold several works by Sam Francis, Ossip Zadkine, Serge Poliakoff, Geer van Velde, Fernand Léger, Bernard Buffet and others.

Futur Antérieur

Absolutely delighted! The gallery sold, in particular, a desk by Michel Boyer and a sculpture (*La Montée Lente*, (*Slow climb*) 1972) by Dietrich-Mohr (Dusseldorf, 1924).

Dario Ghio

A large Viennese safe dating from the 3rd quarter of the 19th century was bought by a couple of Belgian collectors on the first evening.

Philippe Heim & James Bauerle

Their exceptional collection of Inuit paintings and sculptures enjoyed great success!

Marc Heiremans

Undoubtedly benefiting from the popularity of their recent exhibition at the Design Museum in Ghent, practically all the creations from the Seguso Vetri d'Arte found buyers.

Willy Huybrechts

Various sales totalling around € 60,000, including a sculpture by Ossip Zadkine (1890-1967), *the Birth of Forms*.

Galerie Jamar

Important sales of works by Léon Spilliaert and Pierre Alechinsky, among others.

Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke

A bright gouache by René Magritte (*Le miroir invisible*, 1942) was purchased on the first evening, quickly followed by a rare oil on canvas by Hergé, a painting by Sam Francis and a series of drawings by Paul Delvaux.

Kovacek Spiegelgasse

Its first time at BRAFA, this gallery received a lot of interest for the portrait of a young girl by Egon Schiele and a drawing by Gustav Klimt. Sold various works in glass.

Kunstberatung Zürich AG

A promising first appearance; sold several paintings including *La Charité (Charity)* by Jan Massys (1509-1575) and *L'Intérieur d'une Galerie de Peintures (Interior of a gallery of paintings)* by Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568-1625).

Pierre Mahaux

A magnificent bronze coffee table designed by Ado Chale was purchased.

Kálmán Maklár Fine Arts

A great success for the paintings of Judit Reigl and Hur Kyung Ae.

Galerie Marcilhac

Sold its Dominique collection, bedroom furniture 1928; a sculpture by Csaky, *Tête (Head)* (1921), not to mention an animal portrait by Paul Jouve, a Ben Swildens desk and glass works by Maurice Marinot.

Helena Markus

Parted with several Japanese screens, including a magnificent 'Birds and Flowers' from the Edo period, at the start of the 19th century.

Galerie Mathivet

In particular sold two pairs of appliqués by Gilbert Poillerat (1902-1988), four aboriginal paintings and saw a lot of interest for its works from the 1940s.

Mullany

Sold one of its key pieces, *Vierge couronnée et enfant (Crowned virgin and child)*, from eastern France, last quarter of the 12th century.

Galerie Petits Papiers

Philippe Geluck's humorous paintings caused a sensation, though without sidelining the works of François Avril, Dominique Corbasson, Denis Deprez and Jean-Claude Götting.

Phoenix Ancient Art

"Egyptian artefacts of exceptional quality always attract so many clients."

Among the items this gallery parted with were an impressive lion's head, Greek art, late 4th-3rd century BC; also a rare blue mosaic plate made from glass, Roman, 1st century BC.

Guy Pieters Gallery

True to its reputation, the Guy Pieters stand was rarely empty and the works of Niki de Saint Phalle, Bernar Venet, Arman, Christo, Jan Fabre, Koen Vanmechelen and Arne Quinze were exchanged in great numbers.

Eric Pouillot

Sold, in particular *Lian et acrobates (Lian and acrobats)* and *Cerf sur ses pieds (Deer on its feet)*, Chinese terracotta tiles, Western Han dynasties (206 BC-8 AD).

Elmar Robert Medieval Art

Found a buyer for *Sainte-Elisabeth*, wood, Turin, 15th century.

Serge Schoffel

A great success for its series Vodun Fon, from which several pieces were sold.

Galerie Jörg Schuhmacher

Repeated its success after a very promising appearance in 2013; in particular, sold a very rare gouache by Georges Vantongerloo (1886-1965).

Sèvres – Cité de la Céramique

In particular sold the Andrea Branzi collection, 2010, “Louis XXI, porcelaine humaine”.

Stammegna & Associés

Among other things, sold a painting by Bernard Buffet.

Steinitz

An important sale was underway as the Fair was closing – a pair of French neoclassical vases from the end of the 18th century, created in the studio of the Hôtel des Menus-Plaisirs under the direction of the Duke of Aumont.

Galerie Taménaga

Found buyers for a watercolour by Marc Chagall and several works by the American artist Tom Christopher.

Axel Vervoordt

Many works sold, as a ‘Carte de voyage’ by Roman Opalka; a ‘Head of Senenmut’, Egypt, New Kingdom (around 1550-107 BC), 18th Dynasty (around 1550-1292 BC); a Roman oil lamps in bronze, 2nd century AD.

N. Vrouyr

58th appearance (out of 59!) for this famous name from Antwerp, which sold a very large original *Ushak* from western Turkey, around 1900.

Whitford Fine Art

This year’s Fair was a remarkable one for this London-based gallery, which parted with several works by Joseph Lacasse, Clive Barker and others, including Paul Van Hoeydonck.

De Wit Fine Tapestries

A notable sale was a tapestry entitled *Cabbage leaves with birds* in wool and silk, from the middle of the 16th century, probably from Oudenaarde.