

BRAFA'S SUCCESS CONTINUES



View of BRAFA 2019 - © Nathalie Gertz

BRAFA 2019, the first international art fair of the year, finished on a new high, confirming a positive tendency that has become increasingly apparent over past years, placing the fair firmly among the most prestigious events in the sector, alongside those that take place in Maastricht and London.

In terms of visitor numbers, this rose to 66,000 this year, a slightly higher count than in 2018, a year which already broke all records.

As for sales, the 2019 edition also proved very lucrative, with a large number of transactions recorded in all domains represented at the fair. The wide range of prices may have had a role in this, for Brafa does not only showcase exceptional museum-worthy pieces, but also appeals to a variety of collectors and art lovers who can find high quality objects and art works at prices which enable unplanned purchases. New buyers were plentiful, according to exhibitors, who appreciate the knowledge, curiosity and open-mindedness of Brafa's public, which, as they say, renews itself and becomes more international each year.

The humorous side of the British duo Gilbert & George, the guests of honour this year, was doubtless contagious. In any case, it brought colour and dynamism to the event which aimed to promote, more than ever, the idea that 'Art is for all', as Gilbert & George themselves have always upheld.

Some important sales made

- **David Aaron's** first participation in the fair was very well received, and he sold a number of pieces including a two-headed 'Rhyton' in terracotta (Azerbaijan, 1st millennium BC), a Greek head of a young man in marble (4th – 3rd century BC), and Luristan horse bits from central Asia (1st millennium BC).
- **d'Arschot & Cie** had a good year, notable sales including that of a 'nave-shaped drinking cup' in partially gilded silver, by the silversmith Heinrich Winterstein, Augsburg, 1613-1615, and 'a Virgin and Child' in silver, boxwood and ebony by the silversmith Josephus I Hennequin, Antwerp, 1704.
- **ArtAncient** enjoyed a great edition of the fair, sales including that of fossilized Megalodon teeth (Miocene, 25-2 million years BC) for approximately 6,000 € each; a Gogotte sandstone formation from the Oligocene period (30 million years ago) and an ancient votive head of a king from Cyprus, 6th century BC.
- **Charly Bailly** was delighted with the fair, mentioning important sales (of 200,000 € or more) to Russian, Swiss, Belgian, Dutch and Chinese collectors.
- **Galerie de la Béraudière** sold an important work by Manolo Valdès, '*Perfil de joven con mancha carmen*', dated 1996.
- **Galerie Berger** had a great fair, selling about twenty pieces: chairs, large mirrors, clocks, furniture, fire dogs, candelabras etc. to old and new clients from Belgium, France and other European countries such as Poland. Amongst the objects sold: a large Regency mirror 'with exploding pomegranates' in carved and gilded wood from 1830, which sold for around 24,000 €; a Mazarine chest of drawers in marquetry from 1878 sold for 100,000 €; and a clock with hot air balloon from the Louis XVI period, 1783-1785, by the Genevan clock maker Rilliet who was based in Strasbourg, which went for 28,000 €.
- **Galerie Claude Bernard** devoted its whole stand to recent creations by Goudji, and sold about thirty out of the seventy presented, all unique pieces, decorated with semi-precious stones, ranging in price from 35,000 to 60,000 €.
- **Galeria Bernat** sold a major work by Juan de Sevilla (Juan Sánchez de Castro), 'Way to Calvary', in tempera on wood, Castile, first half of the 15th century.
- **BERNIER/ELIADES GALLERY** reported sales of Arte Povera works (by Giovanni Anselmo and Marisa Merz, inter alia) at prices ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 €.
- **Gallery Boon** sold a number of marble sculptures by Pablo Atchugarry.
- **Bowman Sculpture** sold a sculpture by Ossip Zadkine, *La Femme inconnue*, 1967, and Lunar Torso, 2018, by Emily Young (London, 1951), in bronze with a light green patina for around 22,000 €.
- Under the generic title *Kisanola*, **Didier Claes** presented a set of wooden combs, sculpted and each ornamented with a figure, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly in Chokwe, Yaka, Luba and Lélé styles, priced from 4,000 to 30,000 €, almost all of which found buyers.
- **Cortesi Gallery** made two notable sales: '*Torsions TQ 9*', 1965-69, by Walter Leblanc at around 100,000 €, and the series *From Earth* by Herman de Vries in the region of 20,000 €.
- **Costermans** sold a work by Joos De Momper the Younger (Antwerp 1564-1635) & Jan Brueghel The Elder (Brussels 1568-1625 Antwerp): *A mountain landscape with pilgrims at a chapel in a grotto*, oil on panel, c. 1600-1610.
- It was a good fair for **Galerie Cybèle** who notably sold two Roman torsos from the 1st and second centuries AD, an elegant head of Apollo from the 1st-2nd century AD (from 10,000 to 40,000 €) and an Egyptian bas-relief dating from the middle Empire (for around 15,000 €).
- **Gallery Desmet** confirmed an excellent fair, having sold a number of pieces (ranging from 3,000 € for the least expensive to 260,000 € for the most expensive) to collectors from Berlin, London, Paris, Milan and Tel Aviv. Sales included new works such as a bust by Antonio Bin. Other sales were forecast to follow from the fair.

- The highlight *La Faneuse*, 1896, an oil painting by Emile Claus, was sold by **Galerie Oscar De Vos**, as were bronzes by Rik Wouters.
- **Christian Deydier**, who specializes in Chinese art, reported the sale of several terracotta Qi horses from the north Tang and Han dynasties, for from 5,000 to 25,000 €.
- **Martin Doustar** sold a Turka figure, made of wood treated with palm oil, from Burkina Faso, 19th century.
- **Galerie Eberwein** sold to new Belgian collectors. Sales included a set of three Canopic vases in painted and stuccoed terracotta (Egypt – New Empire, Third Intermediary Period) and a stela of Siamun and Dedusobek in sandstone with hieroglyphs and original polychrome (Egypt – New Empire, Second Intermediary Period, 1780-1550 BC).
- **Xavier Eeckhout** was successful once again, selling numerous artworks including his star piece – a bronze by Rembrandt Bugatti, *Biche et ses deux faons*, dated 1909 – which went to a private collector for around 200,000 €. Another remarkable sale was that of a pair of dromedaries by Thierry Van Ryswyck, for around 60,000 €.
- **Finch & Co** sold the whole series of twelve caricature portraits of the leaders of the Catholic Church (responsible for the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685) sculpted in ivory, late 17th-early 18th century, one of the key pieces of their selection.
- **Galerie Grand-Rue** sold a number of works, including *'Femme à la lecture'* by Albert Anker, sourced directly from the artist's legatees.
- **Grusenmeyer-Woliner** sold a beautiful Bete-Guro Gye mask from the Ivory Coast, made of wood, iron and hair, dating from the 19th century.
- **Heritage Gallery** from Moscow made its mark on the occasion of its first participation in Brafa with Soviet art deco pieces from the 1930s, including a round table with a hammer and sickle in marquetry on the surface, designed for the Ministry of Nutrition in 1930.
- **Christophe Hioco** found this edition of the fair very successful, and was delighted despite having participated for 12 years, to meet several new collectors. One sale they made of a remarkable piece they could have sold multiple times was that of Śālabhañjikā (P550), Gneiss, Orissa (India), c. 11th century. Other sales included that of a Divine helper in sandstone from northern India (c. 9th century) and a sandstone Lakṣmī also from Northern India (10th – 12th century).
- **Charles-Wesley Hourdé** enjoyed their first participation in the fair, selling to Belgian, French and German collectors, among them first time buyers of tribal art. He notably sold his star piece, a Nimba shoulder mask made by the Baga people in Guinea, late 19th – early 20th century, for around 600,000 € (Picasso owned a similar one which is now held in the Picasso Museum in Paris).
- **Huberty & Breyne Gallery** made numerous sales, both in terms of comic strips (the cover of the Bob and Bobette album *'Le Fantôme Espagnol'* by Willy Vandersteen for 450,000 €; a *Johan et Pirlouit* comic strip by Peyo for 150.000 €; a *Nestor Burma* comic strip by Jacques Tardi for 40,000 €), and in terms of 'creations by comic-strip authors', which included many works by Jean-Paul Götting, François Avril and Philippe Geluck (his version of the Banksy canvas went for 60,000 €).
- **Rodolphe Janssen** sold to collectors from Belgium, France and Luxembourg. Sales included a painting by Sean Landers (*Brueghel the Archer (Boar)*, 2013) for \$ 140.000, and works by Pierre Alechinsky, Miguel Berrocal, Sam Moyer, Thomas Lerooy and Gert and Uwe Tobias for between 20,000 € and 40,000 €. One of the prime pieces shown, the Karen Appel that had belonged to Hergé, was under negotiation with two collectors at the end of the fair.
- Works by Belgian painters such as Paul Delvaux, Léon Spilliaert, Pierre Alechinsky, Fernand Khnopff, James Ensor, Rik Wouters, Gustave Vande Woestyne and Valerius de Saedeleer (inter alia) found numerous buyers. They were notably presented on the stands of **Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke**, **Jos Jamar**, **Francis Maere Fine Arts** and **Seghers**.
- The *Petit Arlequin* (c. 1928) by Anto Carte (1886-1956), presented by **Lancz Gallery**, found a buyer immediately.

- **Bertrand de Lavergne** sold several objects for between 5,000 € and 30,000 €.
- **Galerie Le Beau – Gokelaere** sold an exceptional ceiling light made by Alvar Aalto for Entzo Gutzeit, and a unique shelf by George Nakashima, both going to private Belgian collectors, as did other historic pieces of Brazilian design.
- The rare book sellers were also successful, **Lex Antiqua** sold two important works: *'Ira'*, an engraving by Pieter Bruegel the Elder and *'De drie bomen'*, an etching by Rembrandt van Rijn that went for about 150,000 €.
- **Kalman Maklary Fine Arts** had a very good fair, selling works by Francois Fiedler (up to 120,000 €), Sam Havadtoy (up to 30,000 €), Suh Jeong Min, Marta KucSORA and Judit Reigl.
- **MARUANI MERCIER** also expressed their satisfaction with sales of works by Ron GorchoV, Peter Halley, Titus Kaphar, Jonathan Lasker, Man Ray, ToiletPaper Maurizio Cattelan + Pierpaolo Ferrari and George Shaw at prices ranging from 40 – 100,000 € to clients from France, Belgium and the USA.
- At **Galerie Mathivet**, work by the contemporary designer Franck Evennou and Art Deco pieces attracted buyers. Notable sales included those of vases from 1930 by the French dinanderie craftsman François Claudius Linossier, which, like other important pieces, attracted a number of American clients.
- Success was also reported by **Meessen De Clercq** who sold about twenty works by Lucio Fontana, Claudio Parmiggiani, José Maria Sicilia, Félicien Rops, and an often commented on large head by Benoît Maire!
- **Montagut Gallery** reported a lot of interest in the largest Dogon in the world and the oldest Mirò at the fair (dated 1934) and confirmed sales including that of an important Yaouré mask from the Ivory Coast that went to a German collector.
- **Sandro Morelli** sold a remarkable wooden safe with two sculpted lions on the front, five iron pendants with a decorative spider web, an ornamental *certosino* studded with ivory nails, 27 'false' hidden drawers, made in Lombardy in the late 15th century (asking price around 120,000 €).
- **MORENTZ** were thrilled with their first participation in Brafa, selling four pieces including a round mirror by the Belgian artist Michel Martens, *Gekke Spiegel*, 1979.
- **Jan Muller Antiques** sold about twenty paintings to art lovers and collectors from Belgium, Russia and Monaco, included a beautiful still life, *Flowers in an ornamental vase* by Abraham Breughel (Antwerp 1631 – 1690 Naples) and *A village scene* by Jan Breugel the Younger (Antwerp 1601 – 1677).
- **Klaas Muller** reported important sales of 17th century paintings: a portrait of Saint André, c. 1625 by Jacob Jordaens (Antwerp 1593-1678), a large work of Judith and Holopherne, and a *Scène d'Auberge* by David II Teniers.
- **Peter Osborne** sold works by Moore, Tony Cragg and other artists for six figure sums.
- **La Patinoire Royale / Galerie Valérie Bach** had their best year yet commercially, presenting two optical and kinetic artists: Carlos Cruz Diez and Gisela Colon. They sold seven of their works for prices ranging from 20,000 to 60,000 €. Another notable sale was that of a Solune table by Ado Chale, for 75,000 €.
- **Galerie Alexis Pentcheff** celebrated its tenth anniversary and fifth participation in Brafa with very good sales, including a small *Nature morte aux figures* by Pablo Picasso, a view of the *Port de Marseille* by Albert Marquet, and works by Henri Lebasque, René Gruau, Henri Manguin etc.
- **Phoenix Ancient Art** had an excellent fair, selling to Belgian and French collectors. Objects sold included an Illyrian helmet, Greece, late 7th – early 5th century BC; a Roman bottle with garlands, second half of the 3rd – mid 4th century AD (for just under 200,000 €) and a statuette of Hermès, Imperial period, circa 2nd century AD, for around 100,000 €.
- **Galerie de la Présidence** sold well to Belgian and Lebanese collectors. Half the works sold were figurative, half abstract. One beautiful work among them was an Encre et collage sur papier by Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985) – « *Situation LXXI* », dated 23 January 1979.

- **Philippe Rapin** had a triumphant return, selling almost everything on his stand, notably works by Archizoom Associati, Gio Ponti, Marc Cavell, Marcello Fantoni and Robert Goossens.
- **Repetto Gallery** sold a work by Michelangelo Pistoletto for 60,000 € as well as diverse ceramics by Pino Deodato.
- **Röbbig München** was very happy with his first participation in the fair, notably selling two porcelain figurines of Madame de Pompadour as 'Galatea' and the Vicomte de Rohan in the role of 'Acis' in a play put on in Versailles in 1749, inspired by an engraving by Charles-Nicolas Cochin le Jeune (1715-1790), Model, c. 1750, Meissen manufacture and decoration, c.1750.
- The Italian gallery **Robertaebasta** was thrilled with the fair this year, selling several pieces of Italian design (1950s-1980s), such as a shelving system entitled 'Suvretta' by Ettore Sottsass (for around 18,000 €). The most important pieces are still being negotiated.
- **Galerie Schifferli** had a great second fair, selling a number of works such as an ink and gouche on paper entitled 'Je les dois nourrir' by Louis Soutter.
- **Serge Schoffel** made many sales to art lovers and new collectors at around 20-25,000 € the piece, also selling a set of bronze Yoruba statues from Nigeria and Benin for around 60,000 €.
- **Clara Scremini Gallery** sold six glass pieces for between 8000 and 15,000 € to Belgian and French collectors, including *Red Torso*, 2018, a unique piece by Gizela Sabokova (Nove Zámky, Czechoslovakia, 1952); *Scroll II*, 2018, a unique piece by Eva Vlckova (Czech Republic, 1966), pieces by Maria Bang Espersen (Denemark) and Martin Hlubucek (Czech Republic), and a magnificent coloured set of different sized receptacles by Louis Thompson.
- **Sèvres** notably sold its star piece: the second *Cabinet* of an edition of eight created in 2017 by Doshi Levien, Nipa Doshi (Bombay, 1971) and Jonathan Levien (Ecosse, 1972), in porcelain, biscuit porcelain and lacquered wood, for around 100,000 €. Other significant sales were of the *Vase cape*, 2018, a unique piece by Matali Crasset (Châlons-en-Champagne, 1965), Presles porcelain and Charpin vases, with blue enamel and 24 carat gold on porcelain.
- **Galerie Sismann** reported a number of sales, including a marble sculpture of Aceton, by Michel Fabris, aka L'Ongaro, Venice, c. 1700.
- **STEINITZ** reported good sales, having sold diverse sculptures and pieces of furniture including a beautiful Japanese lacquer coffer from the Edo period (17th century), in Japanese lacquer with Maki-e or silver on a black background and carved gilt wood to new collectors.
- **Simon Studer Art Associés** sold several pieces (a drawing by Tom Wesselman, *American Nude*, 1964 and a piece by Niki de Saint-Phalle) to a Swiss collector from Geneva who bought during the fair (though he didn't attend it); larger sales are pending.
- **Stern Pissarro Gallery** also had a strong result, selling paintings by Gerhard Richter, Sonia Delaunay, Paul Jenkins and Raoul Dufy, and reported a lot of success with their ceramic works by Nam Tran.
- **Galerie Taménaga** was very happy with their results, making many good sales, notably to new collectors. Among them, works by the Japanese painters Takehiko Sugawara (9,000 to 35,000 €) and Kyosuke Tchinai (16,000 to 56,000 €) sold out, as did works by Tom Christopher (16,000 to 45,000 €). They also sold a very important work by Dufy, and have a Chagall under negotiation.
- **Theatrum Mundi** had an excellent experience of the fair, making many sales, notably of scientific instruments. Among the most remarkable objects sold were the original costume worn by Val Kilmer in the film *Batman Forever* (1995) (70,000 €) and the original drawing by Georges Méliès for the first film in the history of cinema, *Le Voyage dans la lune* (1902) for about 25,000 €.
- **Theunissen & de Ghellinck** sold a pair of 'Scabello' seats from Turin, dating from 1740-1750. A similar pair can be found in the Royal Palace of Turin.

- **Sofie Van de Velde** had a great first fair, drawing new Belgian and French collectors. They sold eleven works priced from 1400 - 80,000 €, including one of their catalogue pieces: *Fashion*, circa 1983, by Andy Warhol (Pittsburgh 1928-1987 New York), an original collage and print on paper. They also sold a Pieter Jennes – *Sentimental lady*, 2019, oil on canvas; Kurt Schwitters – *Der Mann mit das Grosse Herz* (The man with the big heart), 1919, watercolour and pencil on paper, Gilbert Decock – *Composition*, 1969, gouache on paper; Salvador Dali – first draft of a stereoscopic house, cover project for the review ‘Le Sauvage’, 1976, gouache, biro and ink and photo collage on cardboard; Willy De Sauter – *Untitled*, 2018, chalk and pigment on wood. An iconic object presented at this 2019 edition of the fair, Frida Kahlo’s corset, on show from the end of the fair at the Brooklyn Museum de New York, may stay in the USA due to the interest shown by two museums in the piece.
- **Floris van Wanroij** confirmed their important place in the Brussels art world, selling a sculpture entitled *Mary and Joseph at the Temple*, Antwerp, late Gothic, first quarter of the 16th century, c. 1520, carved in high relief, with traces of gesso and polychrome, marked with the Antwerp ‘hand’ mark, low centre, height: 26.5 cm. They also sold a wrought-iron mounted ‘cuir bouilli’ book casket. Possibly French or Spanish. Late Gothic, second half of the 15th century. Another sale was of an *Enthroned Virgin and Child* from south-western Germany, possibly Upper Rhine or (Upper) Swabia. Gothic, first half of the 14th Century, limewood carved in full round, with traces of the original polychrome and gesso, height: 75 cm (price around 45,000 €)
- **Galerie von Vertes** marked their first participation in Brafa by selling a beautiful work by de Vasarely and a piece by Yuyoi Kusama.
- **Galerie Vrouyr** sold seven pieces at diverse prices (including a remarkable woven rug measuring 306 x 430 cm, USA, c. 1930) and counted three new clients among their buyers, plus new visitors to their gallery who had discovered them through Brafa.
- **Whitford Fine Arts** reported the sale of works by Clive Barker (including a sculpture entitled ‘Brains’, 2015), Joseph Lacasse (including the painting *Balancement*, 1948) for over 100,000 €, and others by Paul Van Hoeydonck, notably to German clients.

The next edition of Brafa will take place from **25 January - 2 February 2020**.

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