

PRESS RELEASE

Brafa 2016 has broken its record with 58,000 visitors!



Brafa 2016 welcomed more visitors than ever before
Photo: Emmanuel Crooÿ

Brafa 2016 – the 61st edition of the fair – ended on Sunday 31 January having welcomed more visitors than ever before. From the 23 January, no less than 58,000 guests explored the stands prepared by 137 antiques dealers and gallery owners at Tour & Taxis, and despite the economic and political context, the level of sales was high.

The numbers illustrate Brafa's ability to attract ever-increasing numbers of art lovers. As Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, the fair's President, has pointed out, this is good news both for those involved in the fair and for Brussels' international image. Visitors and professionals agree that this was the best edition of the fair so far, the quality of works shown outstanding, including many museum-level pieces. When the doors finally closed, numerous sales had either been finalized or were pending. Quality always finds a buyer, whatever the speciality!

2016 Trends

The large majority of exhibitors were extremely satisfied with the sales they achieved at the fair. The quality of visitors was high, and numerous important collectors made the trip to Brussels from other countries in Europe and beyond. The traditionally strong sectors at Brafa, such as archaeology, tribal and medieval art, did extremely well as usual, as did a number of other sectors including antique furniture, contemporary art and painting.

Some remarkable sales

Galerie AB

Sold about ten pieces. Also received a commission for an Etienne Viard garden sculpture.

Aktis

Made good sales, notably to new clients from Belgium and Luxembourg.

Chu-Teh-Chun (1920-2014), *Winter Vision*, 1979, oil on canvas

Zao-Wou-ki (1921-2013), painting dated 1956

d'Arschot Philippe

The fair confirmed a return to sure values in ancient art, with collectors keen to focus on the rarest, highest quality pieces.

Made numerous sales, including:

- a silver Belgian cosmetic box, Brussels, 1661, silversmith: Franciscus Thibault
- a German bowl in gilded silver, Augsburg, 1595, silversmith: Jacob Schenauer

The sale of one piece is currently being negotiated with a foreign museum.

J. Bagot Archeologia – Ancient Art

Sold a head of the Emperor Caligula in marble, Roman Empire around 37-41 AD, to a European museum

Albert Baronian

Thrilled with their first participation at the Brafa, the gallery made several sales, including:

- a 2007 'Mode d'espagnol' sculpture in bronze by Wang Du
- a watercolour on a photograph by Anselm Kiefer, 1981

Jacques Barrère

Pleased with results, although he has sold more at previous editions.

Sold a 6-section screen, Japan, Momoyama period (16th century). Is currently negotiating the sale of a Shibayama cabinet, Japan, Meiji period (19th century).

Berko Fine Paintings

Very satisfied with results this year.

Immediately sold their series of 10 'old timers' by the French artist Dumont to an American collector, as well as a beautiful Impressionist painting by the Belgian painter Modeste Huys (1874-1932) to a Swiss collector. Later, a Chinese collector bought about 10 paintings.

Boon Gallery

Sales included:

Bust of a Woman, a work in bronze by Alberto Giacometti (1902-1966).

A sculpture by Pablo Atchugarry (Uruguayan artist born in 1954).

Alexis Bordes

A collector based in Belgium bought the *Medallion portrait of Madame Récamier*, a round patinated terracotta work by Joseph Chinard (1756 - 1813), dating from 1801.

Galerie Boulakia

Thrilled with their first participation in the fair! One notable sale was that of a painting by Nicolas de Staël (1914-1955).

Chiale Fine Arts

Sold one of their key pieces (amongst others): *Woman in armchair* (1904) by Natalia Goncharova (1881-1962).

Claes Gallery

Despite experiencing less immediate interest than usual, the gallery made some good sales, including:

- an extremely rare, atypical Lega elephant in ivory, the Congo, late 19th century
- a double-headed Songye Kifwebe statue, the Congo
- an unusual pierced Lega statuette, the Congo

Couvent des Ursulines

Library stairs in steel, brass and oak, France, Charles X period.

De Backker Medieval Art

- a 15th century Spanish gate, sold to a German museum
- a wooden sculpture of Saint Sebastian (14th century), sold to a private French collector
- two fragments of 14th century murals from an old Dominican monastery in Gand, from an American collection, were sold.

Galerie Oscar De Vos

Had a very good fair. Sold a number of paintings by Albert Saverys, Emile Claus, James Ensor, Gustave De Smet, Frits Van den Berghe and a sculpture by Georges Minne.

De Wit Fine Tapestries

Sold 7 tapestries including their two star pieces:

- a 'thousand flowers with birds', in wool and silk, southern Holland (around 1530)
- a 'pergola' tapestry by Oudenaerde (16th century)

Xavier Eeckhout

Very pleased with results. Made many sales, including:

- a 'Large Gazelle' (1906) by Rembrandt Bugatti (1884-1916)
- a 'Walking Marabout' (1929) by Albéric Collin (1886-1962)

Futur Antérieur

Had a successful fair! Sold a console dating from 1948 in rosewood and brass by Ico Parisi (1916-1996) and an Italian desk by Angolometallarte (1970s), to a client from New York.

Jacques Germain

Sold all their important pieces including a 19th century Ngulu reliquary figure from the Congo, Kota art.

Dario Ghio

Sold several pieces including a silver horn-shaped hunting trophy commissioned by King William II of Orange for his palace, an object that may well return to Holland...

Christophe Hioco

The gallery's focus on Indian art was hugely successful, and they made numerous sales. These included:

- a Sakyamuni Buddha in black stone (North-East India, 12th – 13th century)

An Italian collector and two French-Canadian collectors came to the fair specifically to acquire new pieces!

Huberty & Breyne Gallery

- Hergé – Tintin – Coke in stock: an original sketch from the series of 40 pre-published in the Tintin Journal in 1957
- Philippe Geluck: The Sistine Chapel – acrylic on canvas

Jos Jamar

Sold several key works by Léon Spilliaert, and some drawings by James Ensor.

Francis Janssens van der Maelen

Had a very successful fair. Sold diverse pieces of Belgian silverware, a table with a marble top by the Belgian designer Ben Storms, and several pieces of Italian silverware dating from the 1950s and 1960s.

Librairie Lardanchet

Sold one of the rarest pieces exhibited at the Brafa: an original leaf from the Gutenberg Bible (1400-1468), dating from 1452-55.

Galerie Alexis Lartigue

Sold the painting *Phenomena*, 1983, by Paul Jenkins (1938-2012).

Galerie Le Beau

Almost sold everything! Notable sales:

- a console in walnut dating from 1950 by Paolo Buffa (1903-1970), a star piece sold to a private Belgian collector.
- a dining table by Hans J. Wegner (1914-2007) in oak and teak.
- a 5 lamp light in lacquered metal, 1959-62, by Alvar Aalto (1898-1976), a unique piece.
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Francis Maere Fine Arts

Very pleased with results. Notably sold *Power*, a unique sculpture in the shape of a fist by the artist Etienne Desmet dating from the 1950s and weighing 2.2 tons!

Pierre Mahaux

Currently negotiating the sale of an impressive chimneypiece in polished steel, dated around 1975, by Alexandre-Robert Rigaut (1936-2005).

Sold diverse pieces by Ado Chale, Christian Krekels and Guglielmo Ulrich (the last to an American collector).

Meessen De Clercq

Made significant sales, including:

- two major works by Claudio Parmiggiani (Italian artist born in 1943) to private collectors. One of these, a sculpture.
- several works by the Belgian artist Fabrice Samyn, whose works were shown at the Brafa for the first time this year.
- a number of old and more recent works by the Spanish artist José Maria Sicilia (born in 1954), including a sculpture.

Marc Michot

Sold a Tang dynasty terracotta *camel and rider* (618-960 AD).

La Patinoire Royale

Enjoyed their first participation in the Brafa, making several strong sales, including:

- a work by Jesus Rafael Soto entitled *Courbes immatérielles* that combines mixed media, aluminium rods and nylon threads (1982).
- *Progression polychrome*, an acrylic on canvas dated 1978 by Jean-Pierre Vasarely, aka Yvaral (1934-2002), sold on the last day.

Galerie Pentcheff

Had an excellent fair. Notable sales included works by Pierre Bonnard (1837-1895) and Henri Lebasque (1865-1937).

Phoenix Ancient Art

Sales included a neolithic figure of a goddess dating from the 6th century BC.

Guy Pieters

Made numerous sales, notably of bronze sculptures by Jean-Michel Folon (1934-2005) and sculptures in Carrera marble by Jan Fabre (born in 1958) from his solo show '*Sacrum Cerebrum*' presented exclusively at the Brafa.

Galerie Günter Puhze

Had a successful fair. Sold pieces including a Roman marble head and a stele representing a gladiator to European collectors.

Robertaebasta

Delighted with the fair! Sold numerous pieces of furniture by Gio Ponti (1891-1979). Other sales are pending.

Thomas Salis art & design – Frank Landau – Dierk Dierking

The gallery created a stand that united design objects, modern and contemporary art, tribal and Asiatic art. The design section had a lot of success and several chairs created by Pierre Jeanneret for Chandigarh in India in 1955 were sold, amongst other pieces.

Sanderus Antiquariaat

Sold a number of rare works, including one of the rarest and most important 17th century sea atlases: the '*Trésorerie Ou Cabinet De La Route Marinesue : Contenant la description de l'entière Navigation...*' by L.J. Waghenaar, published in Amsterdam in 1606.

Serge Schoffel

Made several significant sales to private collectors, including:

- a Grebo elephant mask from Liberia, 19th century.
- an enigmatic 18th century Maori sculpture
- a Kwoma statue from Papua New Guinea
- a magnificent *nkishi* Songye statue

Clara Scremini

Sold their series of works by the Russian artist Maria Koshenkova (born in 1981) on the first evening.

Galerie Tanakaya

Sold a number of their Nô theatre masks (Edo period, early 19th century.)

Axel Vervoordt

Sold most of their furniture to regular clients on the first evening.

Whitford Fine Art

Made good sales, including that of their star piece by the Belgian artist Joseph Lacasse (1894-1975), and works by Clive Barker (an English artist born in 1940) and Paul Van Hoeydonck (a Belgian artist born in 1925).

The next edition of the Brafa will take place from **21 - 29 January 2017**, on the Tour & Taxis site in Brussels.

www.brafa.be

You can follow the Brafa on Twitter @BRAFA_Brussels, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram and Youtube.

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