

PRESS RELEASE / CLOSING OF BRAFA 2018 / 08/02/2018

BRAFA 2018 BREAKS NEW RECORD



On the evening of the closing of its 63rd edition of Brafa, held from 27 January to 4 February, the fair for the fifth consecutive year broke a record in terms of attendance, having welcomed some 64,000 visitors. This 5% increase was for the most part due to foreign visitors, chiefly from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and France, but also to the presence of a new, younger public. This new record also confirms the pre-eminent position of Brafa among the major events of the European art market, among which in fact it has seen the most significant progression over recent years.

Overall sales figures have also grown steadily in comparison to the previous edition, which had already been considered excellent. The growing interest in the fair on the part of art lovers and collectors, both public and private, was evident from the opening of the event right up to its final day.

The reasons for this success can most certainly be found in the very high overall quality of the works on offer (the linchpin in the development strategy adopted by the organisers for many years now), as well as in the pricing policy, which is clearly in line with the reality of the market.

As emphasised by Harold t’Kint de Roodenbeke, President of Brafa, many visitors also appreciate the distinctive quality of the event: *“We set great store by the convivial and warm atmosphere of our fair. It is important to us that each visitor should be made to feel welcome and see his or her visit to Brafa as a positive experience. This spirit is no doubt what distinguishes Brafa from other similar events. This ‘Belgian-style’ conviviality is very much valued by our foreign visitors”.*

The organisers, confirmed in the wisdom of their strategy based on quality and openness, wish to continue along that path and especially to attract even more foreign collectors.

BRAFA 2019 will be held **from 26 January to 3 February** at the Tour & Taxis site.

OVERVIEW OF SOME NOTABLE SALES

Archaeology

- **ArtAncient** (first participation): sold the complete Desmond Morris' collection of 80 early Bronze Age (ca. 2200 BC.) pots from Cyprus, priced at approximately 3,500 € each, as well as other pieces, including an Egyptian relief, dating to the Middle Kingdom, circa 2050 BC and a giant fossilised palm frond, approximately 55 million years old.
- **Galerie Cybele** : a very beautiful head of young Roman, 1st century AD, or a Venus Aphrodite, beginning of the Roman period (1st c. BC - 2nd c. AD) in bronze (around 100,000 € each)

Asian art

- **Éric Pouillot**: an exceptional fat lady on her horse, terracotta with three colours called Sancai, blue, cream and amber, China, Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD between 60-80,000€ and an elegant dancer in grey terracotta with traces of pigments from the western Han dynasty, China (206 BC - 08 AD) between 25-35,000€.
- **Grusenmeyer-Woliner**: sold a huge Buddha head, bronze with gilt traces, Thailand, 14th century, Lan Na style
- **Gallery Tanakaya**: sold several ex. of an exceptional collection of 55 framed landscape prints from the series '*Shokoku Meisho Hyakkei*' ('100 Famous Views of the Provinces'), Utagawa Hiroshige II (1826-1869).
- **Bertrand de Lavergne**: sold a pair of candlesticks from a service belonging to Louis-Jean-Marie de Bourbon, the Duke of Penthièvre, grandson of Louis XIV. Few pieces from this service commissioned by his father in 1725 have survived. Export China, Yongzheng, 1723-1735.
- **Finch & Co**: a superb, rare pair of Chinese court figures, elaborate dress of filigree silver and enamel, seated on traditional horseshoe shaped chairs, China, 19th century.

Contemporary art

- **Albert Baronian**: sold notable three works of Gilbert & George (2016), a painting of Jules Olitski (1972), one work of Lionel Esteve (2017) and one drawing of Sol LeWitt dated 1982.
- **Rodolphe Janssen**: sold '*Woman Screaming*' (1953) a large painting by Karel Appel to an American collector around 200,000€; '*Toujours Là*' (1977) by Pierre Alechinsky (85,000€); several works by Thomas Lerooy (between 15-24,000 €) to Belgian, British and French collectors.
- **Gladstone Gallery**: sold '*Mirror Glow Bronze [Cobalt Blue]*' (2015) by Anish Kapoor; '*the sun at 4 pm*' (2016), a beautiful work by Ugo Rondinone, gilded brass, limited edition: 2 of 3.
- **Bernier/Eliades Gallery**: sold '*Purple Gobo*', a unique, colourful work including video elements by Tony Oursler (between 150-200,000€).
- **Maruani Mercier**: sold historic pieces from the 1980s of Peter Halley, works of Francesco Clemente...
- **Meessen De Clercq**: a very good edition with sales of all the artists presented: Rinko Kawauchi, Nicolas Lamas, Benoît Maire, Claudio Parmiggiani, Fabrice Samyn, José Maria Sicilia, Thu Van Tran...

Tribal Art

- **Galerie Ratton** (first participation): sold an imposing 'Attie statue' attributed to the *Maître des Jolis Seins*, Ivory Coast, Lagunaire Region, in wood, metal, pearls and fibres.
- **Didier Claes** : sold its complete series of 14 Yaka masks in polychromed wood and raffia fibres, Democratic Republic of the Congo, late 19th - early 20th century, and an important Lwalwa mask.
- **Galeria Guilhem Montagut** (first participation): a very beautiful nails fetish, tribe Kongo, mid 19th century, around 250,000€.

Comic strips

- **Belgian Fine Comic Strip Gallery:** sold a fine original plate representing Tintin, Snowy, Captain Haddock and Thomson and Thompson (1968) by George Remi alias Hergé (Brussels, 1907-1983). Indian ink and graphite on drawing paper around 85,000€.

Glass, porcelain and ceramics

- **Marc Heiremans:** sold 'Oriente Olaf' around 12,000€, circa 1952, Corrado 'Dino' Martens (Venice, 1894-1970) for Aureliano Toso, Murano. Superb free-blown glass decorated with enclosed glass splinters, zanfirico canes and coloured glass pieces.
- **Jean Lemaire:** a three-sided salt box from the service of the Duke of Orleans. Commissioned in 1787 from the porcelain factory of Tournai by the Duke of Orleans. Circa 1787. Height: 11 cm. Rare piece from the most important Tournai service.
- **Laurence Lenne:** '*The dream of Constantin*' (1538), a plate on low foot with the coat of arms of Euffreducci di Fermo, by Fransesco Xanto Avelli (Rovigo, 1487-1542)
- **Sèvres – Cité de la Céramique:** very good edition. Sold contemporary pieces of Johan Creten, Lionel Estève, Emmanuel Boos to Korean collectors between 1,800€ and 110,000€.

20th century design and decorative arts

- **Galerie Le Beau:** a sit' armchair, 1990, by Ron Arad (Tel Aviv, 1951) in tempered, patinated and polished stainless steel; a 'Guanabara' table, circa 1960 by Jorge Zalszupin (Warsaw, 1922), Jacaranda wood, concrete and leather.
- **Futur Antérieur:** '*Untitled*', Bruno Romeda (Brescia 1933-2017 Grasse), bronze, ca. 1990 and a pair of 'contour' armchairs, Vladimir Kagan (Worms 1927-2016 Palm Beach), Mahogany and sheepskin, ca. 1960.
- **Robertaebasta:** most of the exhibited pieces were purchased, including a maple bar with brass decorations by Paolo Buffa (1903-1970), Italy, around 1950.
- **Galerie Mathivet:** sold a beautiful bench (1900) by Carlo Bugatti (Milan 1856-1940 Molsheim) around 35,000€ and a Liane floor lamp in bronze by Frank Evennou (2017).

Old Masters paintings

- **Klaas Muller:** the star of this Brafa 2018 edition, '*Diana and Nymphs Hunting Deer*' (1635-40) a spectacular work with figures painted by Pieter Paul Rubens (Siegen 1577-1640 Antwerp), animals by Paul De Vos (Hulst, circa 1591-1678 Antwerp) and the landscape by Jan Wildens (Antwerp, 1585-1653), is under negotiation with an American client.
- **Galerie Florence De Voldère:** several sales amongst others a painting by Joseph van Bredael (Antwerp 1688-1739 Paris), '*L'Arbre de Mai*', around 160,000 €.

Gold and silverware

- **Dario Ghio:** sold a rare royal casket in silver, vermeil and polychromed enamel containing a royal relic in its original case in the form of royal arms. Paris, 1852. Given to Queen Marie-Thérèse of Eastern Austria.
- **d'Arschot & Cie:** several sales between 5,000-80,000€ to Belgian, Dutch, French and Swiss clients, notably a Nautilus cup, silver, silver-gilt and cephalipodia nautiloidea, South Germany, Landshut, 1630, Silversmith: Jürg Winhardt, around 75,000€.

Furniture

- **Costermans:** an exceptional Louis XV Chinese lacquer and vernis martin writing desk, circa 1750, stamped F. G. for Francois Garnier.
- **Berger Gallery:** excellent edition, sold amongst others a Louis XVI demi-lune Commode by Charles Topino, ormolu-mounted with floral marquetry, circa 1770 and a very elegant Louis XVI Mechanism Table, rectangular ormolu-mounted and mahogany architect table called '*à la Tronchin*' around 80,000€. He also sold a set of four Louis XV Fauteuils '*à la Reine*', fine set of four mouldered, carved and cream-painted beechwood fauteuils.
- **Floris van Wanroij Fine Art:** a Cabinet with scenes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, attributed to Michiel Coignet (Antwerp, 1618 – ca. 1663) and the Forchondt workshop, collection *Rockoxhuis*, Antwerp.

Haute Epoque

- **De Backker Medieval Art:** sold a museum piece: a '*Virgin and Child*' in limestone with remnants of the original and later polychrome, France / Lorraine, circa 1330, that went to a Parisian collection. Architectural fragment of a Ciborium, oölitic limestone, Italy, 8th century.
- **Gallery Desmet:** sold a delicate '*Madonna and Child*', Andrea di Lazzaro Cavalcanti, called Buggiano (Borgo a Buggiano, Pescia 1412-1462 Florence), Florence, circa 1440-50, around 55,000 €.

Modern drawings and paintings

- **Galerie Ary Jan:** sold an exquisite '*Annunciation*' (1923) by Antoine Carte (Mons 1886-1954 Brussels). Graphite pencil and watercolour on paper mounted on canvas.
- **Samuel Vanhoegaerden Gallery:** sold an intriguing Cy Twombly (USA, 1928-2011), '*Untitled Ramifications*', Rome, 1971. Oil paint, pencil, and wax crayon on paper. Announced around 2,500,000€.
- **Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke:** many sales including a colourful '*Untitled*' (1975) Sam Francis (San Mateo 1923-1994 Santa Monica), acrylic on paper, around 100,000€, works by Poliakoff and a beautiful work by Léon Spillaert, '*Beach*' (1905) between 100,000-200,000€.
- **Galerie Alexis Pentcheff:** sold their original '*Fleur du Mal*' ('*Flower of evil*'), inspired by Charles Baudelaire, by Henri Martin; '*Les Parisiennes ou Le Sentier de la Vertu*' by Kees Van Dongen is under negotiation.
- **Galerie de la Présidence** (first participation): sold various pieces among them, Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, Hans Hartung, Albert Marquet.
- **Galerie Claude Bernard:** very good edition. Sold several silver pieces by Goudji, paintings by Truphemus, Ronan Barrot, Eva Jospin.
- **Bailly Gallery:** several paintings of Hans Hartung, Jean Metzinger, and Jean-Paul Riopelle between 100-250,000€, and two other major works above 300,000€ to buyers from China, Belgium, France, Switzerland. Also in discussion with Russian and Dutch clients.
- **Whitford Fine Art:** sold several works between 40,000€ and 85,000€ of artists they represent: Joseph Lacasse, British pop artist Clive Barker, exceptional works from 1960s by Bram Bogart, British artist Frank Avray Wilson...
- **Stern Pissarro:** excellent edition. Sold paintings by Marc Chagall, post-impressionists, modern works, Otto Piene, ... to Russian, Czech, German, Belgian collectors...
- **Boon Gallery:** has received a lot of interest for '*L'Oracle*', circa 1931, by René Magritte (Lessines 1898-1967 Brussels), which is under negotiation.
- **Helene Bailly Gallery:** sold '*Péril extra jaune*' (1938) oil on panel by James Ensor (Ostend, 1860-1949).
- **Axel Vervoordt:** '*Work – Reversal A*' by Norio Imai (Osaka, 1946), dated 1965, repainted by the artist in 2008.

Sculptures

- **Univers du Bronze:** several sales, amongst which '*L'homme à l'outré*' (1897) a stunning work by Georges Minne (1866-1941). In bronze with a rich brown patina, it was exhibited at the *Salon de La Libre Esthétique*, Brussels (1898) and '*Fontaine*' or '*Petite fontaine*' (1896) in white marble by Paul-Albert Bartholomé (Thiverval-Grignon 1848-1928 Paris), one of the five listed examples carved in marble by the artist...
- **Xavier Eeckhout:** many sales, among which his masterpiece, an elegant puma by Rembrandt Bugatti (Milan 1884 – 1916 Paris), plaster edition, circa 1911. Most certainly offered by Hébrard, there are two in the edition, the other in Rome in the collection of the Galleria of Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (inv. n. 2672).
- **Osborne Samuel Gallery** (first participation): sold several works by Lynn Chadwick, Henri Moore sculptures...
- **Galerie Maeght** (first participation): sold a rare sculpture created in 1968 by the Belgian artist Pol Bury from sixty-nine tubes arranged in a circular form. Stainless steel.
- **Tornabuoni Arte** (first participation): sold a huge sculpture of Pablo Atchugarry (Montevideo, 1954) in white carrara marble, unique piece between 100,000-200,000€.

Textiles and carpets

- **N.Vrouyr:** Rug by Michel Seuphor (Antwerp 1901-1999 Paris), made in the workshop of Elisabeth De Saedeleer, Belgium, circa 1960.

Cabinet of Curiosities

- **Finch & Co:** an *Immaculate Conception*, fine Flemish Baroque ivory in high relief of the Annunciation of the Virgin, 17th century (around 25,000 €)
- **Theatrum Mundi:** a Russian cosmonaut's pressurised suit that once belonged to Gennadi Strekalov during the *Soyuz TM-10* mission (August – December 1990) (130,000 €); a fossil double palm frond (around 60,000€), two offers for the Triceratops head, including one from a private customer Germany.

BRAFA - Brussels Art Fair

Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 88 - 1000 Brussels

www.brafa.art

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

Press contact for Belgium and international coordination

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

!!!Save the date !!!

BRAFA 2019 – 26/01 → 03/02/2019