

ROCAD.be - Royal Chamber of Art Dealers - exhibits at BRAFA to celebrate its 100th anniversary

ROCAD.be has been invited to exhibit at the next edition of BRAFA to celebrate its centennial anniversary. During this 64th edition of BRAFA art fair, ROCAD.be will exhibit more than forty iconic masterpieces in a specially designed space. All of these works of art have been sold by members of the Belgian professional association to collectors and museums. ROCAD.be will also take this opportunity to publish a magnificent book shedding light on more than 100 art pieces and their stories, coming from its members.

This centennial anniversary also sees the creation of a new name for the association, formerly called the 'Belgian Royal Chamber of Antiques and Art Dealers'. From now on, the Chamber will be known as ROCAD.be or 'Royal Chamber of Art Dealers'. The association was established in 1919. Since its foundation, ROCAD.be has welcomed among its members antiques dealers who are dedicated to integrity, honesty and ethical conduct in the antiques trade, and it strives to serve the art trade in Belgium by helping to achieve a competitive position within the international art market.



ROCAD.be will richly celebrate its 100th jubilee during BRAFA. The professional association is taking this opportunity to exhibit about forty exceptional art works in a 100 square meter space: old masters and modern paintings, decorative arts, tribal arts, porcelain, silverwork, archaeology and antique furniture. All of these works of art have been sold by ROCAD.be members to collectors and museums, and only represent a small part of the association's activities. None of the works are for sale, as they come from private collections.

The exhibited pieces are a reflection of the quality and the diversity of its members, and will each try to tell a very personal story to the public.

Some highlights will include :

- Two works by Belgian surrealist painter René Magritte (1898-1967)
- An exceptional chinese Bodhissatva from the 6th century AD
- A very rare earthenware Djenné statue from Mali
- A fine service « aux oiseaux de Buffon » from the Tournai Manufacture, Belgium, 18th century
- A pair of firedogs by Pierre Gouthière, 18th century, of which only one other example is known in the Palace of Versailles
- A portrait by Belgian painter Henri Evenepoel (1872-1899)

A lecture will be organised on Sunday January 27th at 4 PM – a part of the BRAFA ART Talks - to familiarise the public with ROCAD's activities.

This centennial anniversary will also be highlighted with the publication of a very beautiful book in English about ROCAD.be. The volume, titled 'Hundred Years of Dealing with Art', has been carefully written and put together by journalist Thijs Demeulemeester. A series of wonderful objects and their stories have been selected to reflect the different specialities of ROCAD's members. Readers are invited to discover more than a hundred exceptional pieces, ranging from 18th century furniture to modern design, from archaeology to ethnography, from old masters to modern and contemporary art, silverwork, porcelain and even comics which are so famous in Belgium. Each work of art is illustrated and goes hand in hand with stories and comments told by the antique or art dealer that sold the piece. More than ten thematically-organised chapters – such as « Museum acquisitions », « Death and Vanity », « Of Famous Provenance » ... - will have the reader voyage through different and unique art forms.

Not only established members of ROCAD.be are included in this book, but also dealers of the younger generation who are the future of this beautiful trade. With this jubilee, ROCAD.be is looking back on 100 successful years within the art trade, but it is also the occasion to look forward and defend the profession through the 21st century. These books will be available for sale during BRAFA and distributed to the different members of ROCAD.be.

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