

BRAFA'S FAIR PROGRAMME 2026

Art Talks and midday concerts

Saturday 24 January to Sunday 1 February 2026
(except Monday 26 January)
at the King Baudouin Foundation stand N° 151

BRAFA is proud to present its new series of Art Talks 2026, where leading voices from the art world will take the stage to share their insights, stories, and perspectives on art and collecting today.

In 2026, the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) will be the Guest of Honour, bringing an exceptional cultural dimension to the fair. To mark its 50th anniversary, the Foundation will also host a series of daily lectures - the KBF Art Talks - given by experts, each focusing on a masterpiece from the Foundation's collection that will be exhibited at its stand.

In addition to the Art Talks, visitors will be introduced to a new and delightful experience: a daily lunchtime concert performed by talented young musicians. Supported by one of the philanthropic funds, these musicians offer a living reminder that philanthropy nurtures contemporary creativity.

SATURDAY
24.01



BRAFA ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: EN

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY MUSEUM LUDWIG! LET'S CELEBRATE IT WITH YAYOI KUSAMA!

Yilmaz Dziewior, Director of the Museum Ludwig, Cologne

In 2026, Museum Ludwig Cologne will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It was founded thanks to a generous donation from the collector couple Peter and Irene Ludwig. Part of this is a work by Yayoi Kusama, which together with works by Lichtenstein, Marisol, Warhol and many others, was donated by the Ludwigs in 1976. This is one reason why the Museum Ludwig is dedicating an extensive retrospective to the internationally renowned artist's in its anniversary year. The lecture touches on the history of the museum and Kusama's life and artistic development.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: EN



BETWEEN PASSION AND TECHNOLOGY: RETHINKING COLLECTING TODAY

Dominique and Sylvain Lévy, French collectors

Dominique and Sylvain Lévy, founders of the *dslcollection*, have redefined art collecting by creating a space that focuses on transmission and digital innovation rather than accumulation, establishing one of the world's leading collections of Chinese contemporary art.

Pioneers of a 'phygital' approach, they combine physical loans with immersive digital experiences, including a virtual museum launched in 2012, to explore the changing role of the modern collector.

SUNDAY
25.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: NL

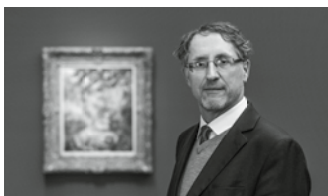
FOCUS ON WILLEM KEY

[Koenraad Jonckheere](#), Full Professor in Northern Renaissance and Baroque Art, Ghent University

Flemish painter Willem Key worked for the most eminent patrons of his time and was deeply embedded in the heart of Antwerp's 16th century art scene. His portraits and history paintings reveal superb technical mastery as well as keen psychological insights. On the occasion of the King Baudouin Foundation's acquisition of one of Key's masterpieces, visitors are invited to take a closer look at this great, but little-known, artist and to delve into his oeuvre and the turbulent times in which he lived and worked.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: EN



WHERE DO UNICORNS COME FROM? OR: HOW TO MAKE AN EXHIBITION ABOUT AN ANIMAL THAT DOES NOT EXIST?

[Dr. Michael Philipp](#), Chief Curator, Museum Barberini, Potsdam, Germany

The unicorn is magical. No one has ever seen one alive and yet everyone has a certain idea of what they look like, thanks to the countless paintings, drawings, tapestries, illuminated manuscripts and sculptures of this mystical animal created by artists since the Middle Ages. The Museum Barberini in Potsdam and the Musée de Cluny, together with the Grand Palais RMN in Paris, have organised the exhibition *Unicorn: The Mythical Beast in Art*, featuring over 140 loans from international museums. Dr Philipp's lecture will explain how to organise an exhibition on such a 'magical' topic, how to select and secure loans and what new insights can be gained from such an exhibition.

In collaboration with

CODART
International council
for curators
of Dutch and Flemish art

TUESDAY
27.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: NL

FOCUS ON EVELYNE AXELL

Francisca Vandepitte, Senior Curator of Modern Art at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Associate Professor in Conservation Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

L'Egocentrique 2 by Pop artist Evelyne Axell was created in dialogue with *Le Galet* by the Belgian Surrealist artist René Magritte. Axell gives form to a liberating image of womanhood that is both colourful and playful, inspired by 1960s feminism. The work reflects her taste for an experimental and bold use of contemporary, non-artistic materials. The two works provide a surprising encounter between two generations and two genders.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: FR



IS OUR HERITAGE AT RISK?

Estelle De Bruyn, Head of the Sustainability Unit, Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)

Born in the aftermath of the Second World War, the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) set itself the mission of protecting Belgium's cultural heritage. As early as 1948, it trained Civil Protection members, drew up lists of priority works to safeguard in the event of conflict or disaster and advised on the construction of atomic shelters. Such expertise is now more relevant than ever: in 2021, floods damaged more than 250 cultural sites in Belgium, a stark reminder of our heritage's vulnerability to disasters. Today, KIK-IRPA is reviving and developing its expertise through its Sustainability Unit, combining scientific research with concrete action to help cultural institutions, places of worship and private collections prepare for future challenges.

In collaboration with



WEDNESDAY
28.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: FR

FOCUS ON THE TREASURE OF OIGNIES

[Aurore Carlier](#), Curator and Collections Manager, and
[Fiona Lebecque](#), Curator – Project Manager at the
Archaeological Society of Namur

Nearly 800 years ago, the first pieces of a precious silversmith's treasure emerged from the workshop of a small priory on the banks of the River Sambre. Discover how the Treasure of Oignies, an exceptional heritage ensemble, has continued to capture the public's imagination and admiration, dazzling people from the worshippers of the 13th century up to visitors in the 21st century.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: EN



NURTURING DUE DILIGENCE: HOW TO REMAIN A TRUSTED PARTNER IN THE ART & ANTIQUITIES TRADE

[Michiel Vervloet](#), Expert Investigator, Fraud Control
Department of the Economic Inspection Directorate General

In this Art Talk, Michiel Vervloet will highlight the various aspects of risk management that those working in the art and antiques world must implement in order to comply with current anti-money laundering legislation. Drawing on his extensive practical experience, he will use concrete examples to guide participants through the roll-out of their risk-based policies to ensure that the art sector cannot be misused for money laundering and/or terrorist financing.

THURSDAY
29.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: FR

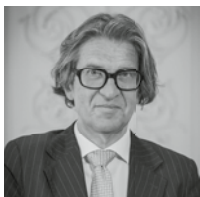
FOCUS ON AN EXCEPTIONAL LACE PIECE

Caroline Esgain, Curator and Head of the Fashion and Lace Museum, Brussels

This magnificent handmade needle lace, of impressive dimensions, illustrates the remarkable craftsmanship of lace makers from Belgium in the second half of the 19th century. It is an example of *point de gaze*, one of four techniques inherited from the 18th century in which Brussels lace-makers excelled. The lecture will situate this exceptional piece within the broader corpus of Brussels lacemaking.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: EN



FROM LEGACY TO THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY

Ludwlg Forrest, Chief Philanthropy Officer, the King Baudouin Foundation; **Melanie Coisne**, Head of Heritage & Culture, the King Baudouin Foundation and **Thomas Leysen**, entrepreneur and philanthropist

As the King Baudouin Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary, the panel will explore how a half-century of philanthropic engagement has shaped our cultural and heritage landscape and how this experience can guide us in the future. With contributions from the King Baudouin Foundation's leadership, a donor, and a grantee, the speakers will reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead: how philanthropy sustains heritage, how cultural initiatives transform lives and how looking back enables us to go further.

In collaboration with

FRIDAY
30.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: FR

FOCUS ON ELISABETH DE SAEDELEER

Cécile Dubois, Tour guide and lecturer, Art Nouveau and Art Deco specialist

Thanks to the Raphaël and Françoise Haeven Fund, the King Baudouin Foundation has recently acquired an Art Deco-style carpet created by Elisabeth De Saedeleer (1902-1972). The lecture will explore the life and work of this artist who, inspired by the Arts & Crafts movement, played a key role in the revival of carpet weaving in Belgium during the 1920s and 1930s, through her artistic collaborations and her position as a member of the teaching staff at La Cambre, starting from the school's opening in 1927.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: EN



ART AND ANTIQUES DEALING AS A PROFESSION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Virginie Devillez, Fine Art Expert and Advisor, Virginie Devillez Fine Art; **Nathalie Moureau**, Professor of Cultural Economics, Université Paul Valéry; **Anne-Sophie Radermecker**, Associate Professor in Cultural Management, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Moderator: **Liliana Turoiu**, ENCATC and BRAFA Ambassador

Selling art and antiques is a long-standing profession, dating back at least to the early modern period. However, new market forces and competitors, online sales and shifts in taste and lifestyle are requiring dealers to rethink their profession, adapt their practices and renew certain long-standing business strategies. How are they addressing these challenges? And what role do art and antiques dealers still play in today's cultural ecosystem?

In collaboration with



SATURDAY
31.01



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: NL

FOCUS ON THE HOLY BLOOD ENSIGN

Till-Holger Borchert, Director, Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum, Aachen, Germany

It is extremely rare for art and cultural-historical objects of great importance, but long considered as lost, to suddenly resurface. Yet this was precisely the case with the Processional Ensign of the Noble Brotherhood of the Holy Blood, a beautifully carved wooden candlestick depicting the transfer of the Holy Blood relic. From the 16th century until shortly after the French occupation in the early 19th century, it was carried every year in the famous Procession of the Holy Blood in Bruges.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: FR



NEXT GENERATIONS: REDEFINING COLLECTING

Albert Baronian, Gallerist (1973-2024) and Curator;
Valérie Boucher-Marcolini, Founder and Director, ArtContest;
Diane Van Impe, Head of Relations and Development, Wiels;
Marc Hemeleers, Partner, Eeckman
Moderator: **Eric Hemeleers**, Chairman of the Eeckman I PatrimOne Group in Belgium

The art market is being reshaped by new generations of collectors. Their approaches challenge established codes, embracing values such as sustainability, diversity and digital innovation. Even the notion of ownership is evolving: possessing a work no longer follows the same logic as in the past and now comes with new expectations. Collecting today is not confined to traditional forms but extends to new media, immersive experiences and socially-engaged art. It has become a way to express identity and values and to engage in dialogue with the world.



Eeckman
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SUNDAY
01.02



KBF ART TALK AT 2 PM

> Language: FR

FOCUS ON WILLIAM MERCER OF ALDIE'S SOUP TUREEN

Ludovic Recchia, Director and Curator of Keramis, La Louvière

Discover the fascinating story of the William Mercer of Aldie soup tureen (1770), a unique masterpiece from the Tournai porcelain manufactory. Through this exceptional piece, visitors will explore the artistic refinement and cultural exchanges taking place between Belgium and Britain during the 18th century. The lecture will bring together the history, art and heritage of a treasure that has been preserved thanks to the King Baudouin Foundation.

BRAFA ART TALK AT 4 PM

> Language: NL



ART AND TAX

Michiel Maus, Professor in Tax Law, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Tax Lawyer at Bloom Law

Art and Tax

In this lecture, Professor Maus, author of the book *Kunst en Fiscus*, will provide insight into the complex world of art and taxation. What fiscal considerations should artists, gallery owners and art collectors consider when trading or acquiring art? This lecture will not only focus on income tax and VAT, but also on key aspects of inheritance tax and registration duties.

DAILY PROGRAMME AT THE KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION STAND N° 151

12 noon: MUSIC @ KBF (King Baudouin Foundation)

A short lunchtime concert performed by musicians supported by one of the Foundation's philanthropic funds, a vibrant illustration of how philanthropy supports and inspires artistic creation today.

2 PM: KBF Art Talks

A lecture series dedicated to masterpieces from the King Baudouin Foundation's collection, presented by experts and art historians.

4 PM: BRAFA Art Talks

Leading figures from the art world, including curators, museum professionals and art market experts, will share their insights and expertise across a range of fascinating topics.

Free access with a valid BRAFA entrance ticket.

COPYRIGHTS

- 24.01** 2 PM Yayoi Kusama working on My Eternal Soul (2009–2021), 2017 © Yayoi Kusama / Yilmaz Dziewior © Falko Alexander
- 25.01** 2 PM Willem Key, *Lamentation of Christ with Donors*, 1553, Coll. KBF - Charles Vreeken Fund © Vincent Éverard
4 PM Dario di Giovanni, attr., *Virgin with Unicorn (Portrait of Caterina Corner as Allegory of Chastity)*, c.1467-1468. Esztergom, Keresztény Múzeum / Christian Museum, Inv. 55.212, photo Attila Mudrák
- 27.01** 2 PM Evelyne Axell, *L'égocentrique 2*, 1968, Coll. KBF - Isabelle and Philippe Dewez Fund © SABAM Belgium 2025, Paul Louis
4 PM Sculpture detail, Eglise de Prayon (Trooz), photo Wivine Roland-Gosselin
- 28.01** 2 PM Oignies workshop, Reliquary of the Virgin's Milk, post-1243 – c. 1250. Coll. KBF, donated by the Sisters of Notre-Dame de Namur © Hughes Dubois
- 29.01** 2 PM Brussels, needle lace (point de gaze), c. 1860-1880. Coll. KBF - Marie-Jeanne Dauchy Fund © Drouot-Etude Couteau-Bégarie
4 PM Ludwig Forrest © Lieven Van Assche / Melanie Coisne © Jo Exelmans / Thomas Leysen © Fred Debrock
- 30.01** 2 PM Elisabeth De Saedeleer, carpet in Art Deco style, 1880-1940, Coll. KBF - Raphaël and Françoise Haeven Fund, entrusted to the Design Museum Brussels © Vrouyr
- 31.01** 2 PM Bruges workshop, *The Holy Blood ensign*, 1529, Coll. KBF, entrusted to the Museum van het Heilig Bloed, Bruges © Philippe de Formanoir
- 01.02** 2 PM Soup tureen belonging to William Mercer of Aldie, 1770, Coll. KBF © Philippe de Formanoir
4 PM Painting by Alicia Maus

VENUE

Brussels Expo, Halls 3, 4 and 8. Entrance via Hall 4.

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