BRAFA ART FAIR

BUEST OF HONOUR: THE KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION

DELEN

BERNIER/ELIADES

Stand 14

Press release:

Founded in Athens in 1977, **Bernier/Eliades Gallery** has long stood at the forefront of contemporary art in Greece. Jean Bernier and Marina Eliades were among the first to introduce movements such as Arte Povera, Minimal Art, and Conceptual Art to the Greek public, while also maintaining a strong focus on the younger generation of American and European artists. In April 2016, the gallery expanded its presence with a new space in the center of Brussels.

This year, the selection of artworks for Brafa brings together both established artists and young talents, engaging in a diverse range of practices, including painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media. Presented artists include Romain Cadilhon, Tony Cragg, Stefan De Jaeger, Berta Fischer, Gilbert & George, Bertrand Lavier, Ximena Maldonado Sánchez, Martin Margiela, Marisa Merz, Martina Quesada, Brian Rochefort, Thomas Schütte, Tindara Spartà, Robert Wilson, and Philip Zimmermann.

Stand concept:

In today's fast-paced environment of massive artistic production, collectors often function as "cherry pickers," navigating a vast phygital landscape (both physical and digital) in search of artworks that truly resonate with them. Rather than following trends, collectors continuously cultivate a sharp eye and form opinions that they have to disown the moment they encounter a new piece of art in order to approach it without bias or preconceptions. In this ever-evolving international art terrain, trusted gallerists act as compasses guiding collectors through the fields of art that most closely align with their sensibilities, helping them discover works that speak directly to their taste. This year, Bernier/Eliades Gallery (Booth 14) juxtaposes different generations spanning a wide variety of artistic media, inviting viewers to experience the tension and resonance generated by both the spatial and conceptual interactions of the artworks. The intersection of key pieces, artists of diverse backgrounds and varied artistic movements fosters an openended dialogue between works and viewers traversing a broad spectrum of contemporary art. This year's selection of presented artists includes Romain Cadilhon, Tony Cragg, Stefan De Jaeger, Berta Fischer, Gilbert & George, Bertrand Lavier, Ximena Maldonado Sánchez, Martin Margiela, Marisa Merz, Martina Quesada, Brian Rochefort, Thomas Schütte, Tindara Spartà, Robert Wilson, and Philip Zimmermann.

Key notes:

German artist **Berta Fischer**'s sculptures, created through a meticulous process of bending Perspex plates using CAD, laser cutting, and hand modeling, will be featured at Brafa 2026, including works from her latest gallery <u>show</u> and new pieces. Her work has been included in recent exhibitions at <u>C/O Berlin Foundation</u>, <u>Skulpturen park Waldfrieden</u>, <u>Stiftung St. Matthäus</u>, <u>SCAD Museum of Art</u>, <u>ZKM</u>, and <u>Migros Museum für</u>

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Gegenwartskunst, and was selected for this year's Brafa Catalogue.

Gilbert & George recently inaugurated the <u>21ST CENTURY PICTURES</u> at the Hayward Gallery. As featured in Financial Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph, Time Out and Stylist the show was one of the top art exhibitions to see in autumn 2025. In April 2023 the artist opened the <u>Gilbert & George Centre</u> in Heneage Street, with the objective to advance the education of the public in the arts, and generally to advance the arts, architecture, heritage, and culture for the benefit of the public.

Born in Irapuato, Mexico, **Ximena Maldonado Sánchez**'s <u>paintings</u> explore the relationships between humans and ecosystems, focusing on the textures, colours, and rhythms of plants and mineral formations. She lives and works in Brussels. After her solo <u>show</u> at the gallery in Athens in spring 2025, she moved to Italy for a residency and she is now preparing for another one in Finland.

Martin Margiela is one of the latest artists to collaborate with the gallery and is now represented internationally by Bernier/Eliades. Margiela founded Maison Martin Margiela in 1988. In 2009, shortly after the twentieth anniversary of his eponymous brand, he decided to leave the fashion world and devote himself exclusively to the visual arts. Having shown his work in institutions in France, Korea, and China, he is now preparing to expand in Japan.

Marisa Merz's work *Madonna di marte* has finally returned to the gallery following its inclusion in the traveling exhibition *Marisa Merz – Listen to the Space / Ascoltare lo Spazio* at <u>LaM</u> and <u>Kunst Museum Bern</u> and will be highlighted at the gallery's stand.

Following the retrospective <u>exhibition</u> by **Thomas Schütte** at MoMA, New York, Bernier/Eliades Gallery is pleased to present at Brafa 2026 selected works from his 8th solo <u>exhibition</u> with the gallery in Athens. His show <u>Genealogies</u> is on view in Punta della Dogana – Pinault Collection until November 2025.

Martina Quesada is a Paris-based, self-taught artist whose <u>practice</u> has grown through hands-on study with artisans and material specialists across Latin America and Europe, including work with traditional pigment-makers in Peru and Mexico. She has exhibited in London, Paris, Madrid, Buenos Aires, and Lima, and her work is held in institutional and private collections such as MACBA and MALI. She had her solo show with Bernier/Eliades in Brussels in fall 2025 and she will open a solo exhibition at MACBA in November 2026. Her work is featured in this year's Brafa Catalogue.

Robert Wilson's long-lasting collaboration with the Bernier/Eliades began in 2001 with his first <u>exhibition</u> and extended through to his most recent presentation in 2023. This year, the gallery will honor his memory by presenting his work *Der Messias*. The artwork relates to the opera <u>Der Messias</u> by Georg Friedrich Händel, arranged by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, which premiered in 2020 in Salzburg under Wilson's direction. The opera is scheduled to be presented in Houston in 2026. In 2020, Wilson was an invited speaker at <u>Brafa Talks</u>.

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