

BRAFA 2019: pleasant discovery at the Brussels Art Fair



I spent last Friday at BRAFA, a very nice art fair in Brussels; this edition of 2019 had a lot to show for and being able to leisurely walk around, quite a few art gems can be found. I would like to point out this wonderful pastel drawing by French artist Delphin Enjolras (1857-1945), to be found in the stand of Galerie Delvaille.

In our modern age it seems almost unimaginable that a single fireplace would be used to heat an entire room. Well, to heat an entire room is not exactly the case. As a matter of fact, the unknown lady here portrayed has most likely shivers over her entire body, but especially her feet seem to be very cold. We see her raising her apron to let the fire temporarily warm her feet.

The heat of the fireplace that warms her feet is however not what draws our attention; the exquisite handling of the pastel medium has created a lifelike picture of a well-off bourgeoisie lady, caught in her very nice late nineteenth century interior. All details are meticulously drawn with much attention given to the portrayal of fabric and color. In the midst of all this, the artist has rendered space and depth in harmonious balance. To me, one of the most elegant touches of the artist's very capable draftsmanship, is the reflection of the burning fire onto the waxed or oiled hardwood floor. It brings homely radiance to an already delightful genre picture.

This is one of those small pictures, stuck away in a corner of a gallery which deserve much more attention than the few lines I devote to it here; if you have a chance, visit BRAFA 2019 until February 3d and search for art gems like this one.