

25/10/2018 – PRESS RELEASE

BRAFA 2019 – WHEN I’M SIXTY-FOUR...

**THE 64TH EDITION OF BRAFA WILL GATHER 133 BELGIAN AND INTERNATIONAL GALLERIES
IN BRUSSELS FROM 26 JANUARY TO 3 FEBRUARY 2019**



View of BRAFA 2018 – photo A2Pix

In January, the eyes of every art lover turns to Brussels thanks to BRAFA, whose sixty-fourth edition will be held between Saturday, 26 January and Sunday, 3 February 2019 inclusive, on the Tour & Taxis site. The 133 participating galleries and art dealers from sixteen countries have selected the finest, rarest or most valuable works from their respective art specialities in order to meet the great variety of expectations of a large audience with a reputation as connoisseurs. Welcome to this grand ephemeral museum, which traces art history and archaeology down to our own era, criss-crossing various periods, styles and continents to pay homage to artistic creation in all its forms.

When I get older losing my hair, many years from now

...

Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m sixty-four?

It was with these slightly anxious words that Paul McCartney wondered about his future in this famous song, which he wrote for the now mythic Beatles album *Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*, issued in 1967. Since then, Sir Paul has long reached and surpassed that venerable age, and is most likely reassured by the unflagging success he continues to enjoy among millions of fans worldwide!

A happy premonition? BRAFA will launch its 64th edition next January, and it, too, seems more creative and appreciated than ever. So attests the new record attendance reached at its most recent edition: more than 65,000 visitors, and the enthusiastic participation of many of the best Belgian and European galleries. The leitmotif of its organisers – quality / eclecticism / conviviality – appears convincing to ever more exhibitors as well as art lovers, both of whom find every reason to remain faithful.

Rather than break with a tried and tested tradition, the Board of Directors wishes to continue to see the art fair evolve in a positive direction. That is, an *'evolution'* rather than a *'revolution'*, in the words of its Chairman, Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke. The aim is to refine the offer by making it even more complete, more specialized; to demand ever more rigour in the selection criteria for both the galleries and the works of art exhibited, in order to guarantee the highest possible quality. The fair seeks always to engage new audiences and remain attentive to the trends in an art market that is in perpetual transformation.

Exhibitors in 2019: a fine balance between tradition and novelty

Among the 133 Belgian and international exhibitors taking part in this 64th edition, sixteen new names are making their appearance:

- **David Aaron** (London, UK) - Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern works of art. Classical and Islamic art;
- **Bowman Sculpture** (London, UK) - 19th and 20th century and contemporary European sculpture;
- **Brame & Lorenceau** (Paris, FR) - Impressionist, modern and contemporary art;
- **Cortesi Gallery** (London, UK) - Post-war European art;
- **Martin Doustar** (Brussels, BE) - Ancient and tribal art;
- **Heritage Gallery** (Moscow, RU) - Modern Russian art and Soviet design;
- **Charles-Wesley Hourdé** (Paris, FR) - African, Oceanian and American art;
- **Galerie L'Ibis** (Marrakesh, MA) - Archaeology, Egyptian art;
- **Sandro Morelli** (Florence, ITA) - Haute Epoque;
- **Morentz** (Waalwijk, NL) - 20th century design;
- **Röbbig München** (Munich, DE) - Meissen porcelain, furniture, objets d'art;
- **Rosenberg & Co** (New York, USA) - Impressionism, modern and contemporary art;
- **Simon Studer Art Associés** (Geneva, CH) - Impressionist, modern and contemporary art;
- **Gallery Sofie Van de Velde** (Antwerp, BE) - Modern and contemporary art;
- **Galerie von Vertes** (Zurich, CH) - Paintings, works on paper and sculpture of the 20th-21st centuries;
- **Willow Gallery** (London, UK) - Impressionist and European paintings.

Two galleries are making a return:

- **Maison Rapin** (Paris, FR) - 20th century decorative arts and contemporary creations;
- **Pierre Segoura** (Paris, FR) - Paintings, drawings, objets d'art, antique furniture and photographs.

"It's always with great pride that we unveil the list of our participants", stated Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, Chairman of BRAFA, "for it is indicative of the health and attractiveness of our event. With sixteen new names, we are consistent with the previous editions, and from my point of view this is an ideal percentage. It means we are able to bring in novelty without calling into question the internal equilibrium among the various specialities, and without shaking everything up. I think it is important that we can offer our visitors a form of continuity, with galleries who have been faithful to the fair for many years and whom our visitors enjoy seeing each time, while also offering a touch of novelty. For it is thanks to this fine balance that our event retains its strength and attests to its openness."

A layout of stands in line with the contemporary manner of collecting

For a generalist fair like Brafa, which comprises more than twenty different art disciplines, it is also important to be able to satisfy the expectations of its varied audience.

For alongside experienced collectors and art lovers searching for very specific works to add to their collection, it is important to be able also to awaken interest in a public that is perhaps less specialist, but who would like nothing more than to be won over by the beauty or interest of a work. The manner of collecting or acquiring works of art has evolved considerably in recent years, and the current trend is 'cross-collecting', in search of correspondences. By its insistence from the very beginning on a non-sectoral arrangement of the stands, and by placing side by side specialities that are in principle alien to each other, Brafa seeks to enhance that diversity, constantly refreshing the viewer's gaze and inviting harmony. And this is in the fair's very DNA!

Guest of honour 2019 - Gilbert & George, British eccentricity in the land of surrealism

This desire to refresh the viewer's gaze is given particular resonance by the guest of honour for the 2019 edition: the internationally renowned duo Gilbert & George. Having started out as performance artists, they became famous for their large-scale photo pieces. These are often in very bright colours with superimposed black gridlines evoking the windows of yesteryear. The images are contemporary and immediately recognisable, with most placing portraits of both artists in the picture. Although their art draws inspiration from (their) daily life, the vision they offer is in turns metaphysical, mystical, or polemical, but always with a touch of humour and conveying a message. At Brafa they will present five recent large-scale works that will be placed at various spots throughout the fair. Their quirky vision of the world is sure to be a hit in the land of surrealism!

Centenary of the Belgian Royal Chamber of Antiques and Art Dealers

2019 also marks the centenary of the Belgian Royal Chamber of Antiques and Art Dealers. Thanks to their historically close ties, what better place than Brafa to host a prestigious exhibition made up of works from private collections all of which were bought by members of the Chamber? This exhibition will be accompanied by the publication of a book that will address different aspects of the art dealer's trade, peppered with thousands of anecdotes collected and edited by the journalist Thijs Demeulemeester, and by a lecture at Brafa on Sunday, 27 January, as part of the cycle of *Brafa Art Talks*.

The Brafa Art Talks 2019 – Pieter, Peggy, Bernard and Soviet art deco

An indispensable supplement to any visit to Brafa, the cycle of *Brafa Art Talks* offers daily lectures addressing a wide range of topics about the art world. On the occasion of the anniversary year, Pieter Bruegel the Elder will be the subject of two separate lectures, one in French and the other in Dutch, examining in particular the state of the recent discoveries made in the course of restoration work done on several of his paintings, including the famous '*Dulle Griet*'. The lecturer and art historian Christiane Struyven will focus on the criteria by which a piece is considered a major work, and a round table organised with CINOA (International Federation of Dealer Associations) will take stock of various themes currently in the forefront of the art market. Other topics include a passionate view of the great collector Peggy Guggenheim, and a fascinating plunge into Soviet Art Deco ... something for everyone!

BRAFA - Brussels Art Fair - 26/01 → 03/02/2019

Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 88 - 1000 Brussels

www.brafa.art

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

Press contact for Belgium and international coordination

Bruno Nélis – b.nelis@brafa.be – Tel +32(0)2.513.48.31 – GSM +32(0)476.399.579