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BRAFA 2022 attracts visitors



BRAFA Art Fair 2022 - General view of Brafa © Fabrice Debatty

BRAFA will be welcoming art lovers to Brussels Expo at the Heysel until Sunday 26th of June. The Fair, which has changed its setting this year, continues to seduce Belgian and foreign collectors. From the moment they enter, visitors are immersed in an elegant and refined atmosphere where their gaze wanders across stands to discover different specialities and periods. A very positive experience from which they emerge amazed.

'This 67th edition marks the reunion of the art world. It's a pleasure to exchange. There is a real enthusiasm among collectors' explains Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, President of BRAFA.

The 115 galleries present did not only find their usual clients but also created new contacts between Belgian, French, Dutch, German and American collectors, which enabled them to make good sales during the first few days of the Fair.

In the opening hours of BRAFA 2022, the Christ by the sculptor Jan III van Doorne (Mechelen, 1616-1663), presented by **Floris Van Wanroij Fine Art (The Netherlands)**, found a new and prestigious home: the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

The **Galerie Kevorkian (France)**, a first-time participant at BRAFA this year, specialised in the archaeology of the ancient Orient and the arts of Islam, has sold a dozen of works since the opening of the Fair; Persian miniatures, Islamic ceramics and bronzes from Luristan, including the standard of the winged ibex from the beginning of the 1st millennium B.C. and the **Galerie Günter Phuze GMBH (Germany)** sold an elegant Egyptian sarcophagus-mask, New Empire, nineteenth dynasty, circa 1292-1190 B.C.

In tribal art, **Didier Claes (Belgium)** sold an imposing nkisi Songye figure from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of his exhibition devoted to 'force-objects'. **Serge Schoffel (Belgium)** sold his entire collection of bullroarers from the Gulf of Papua to a single collector for more than €50,000. A good start for **Dalton Somaré (Italy)**, whose sales have included a Gouro mask with a figure from Côte d'Ivoire, and a kota reliquary from Gabon.



BRAFA Art Fair 2022 - Serge Schoffel © Fabrice Debatty

Gallery Desmet (Belgium) has sold several sculptures including an eighteenth-century bronze portraying the Laocoon, a Roman epehebe torso in white marble from the 1st-2nd centuries A.D., and a white marble bust of the Roman emperor Nerva.

Over the course of the first weekend, the **Xavier Eeckhout gallery (France)** sold several animal sculptures including a white marble *Pigeon à queue plate*, 1925, signed Jan and Joël Martel, as well as a pretty *Anôn d'Afrique*, in bronze, by Armand Petersen, each for an amount varying between €45,000 and €60,000.

Francis Maere (Belgium), for his part, sold three works by Eugene Dodeigne, one reaching €185,000.



BRAFA Art Fair 2022-Francis Maere Fine Arts, Atelier Eugène Dodeigne © Fabrice Debatty

The **Galerie Theunissen & de Ghellinck (Belgium)**, specialised in French furniture and works of art of the seventeenth to eighteenth century, sold its four-drawer dresser (known as the “tomb”) by Etienne Doirat (Paris, 1675-1732), veneer and amaranth frieze, richly decorated with engraved and gilded bronze and topped with royal red marble. Six chairs by George Jacob (Paris, 1739-1814), as well as a mahogany and mahogany veneer table, stamped Mauter, France, Louis XVI era, were chosen by a couple of collectors at the **Galerie Berger stand (France)**.

Florian Kolhammer (Austria), a new exhibitor at BRAFA, sold the display case created by Josef Frank (Baden 1885-1967 Stockholm), circa 1946, in mahogany, glass, mirror and brass, as well as *Secessionist chandelier*, Munich, Johann Loetz Witwe (for the glass) and Koloman Moser (for the design), circa 1900, both for approximately €18,000.

The sales of **Maison Rapin (France)**, specialised in twentieth-century decorative arts and contemporary creations, have included an amber cabinet and an *Octopus stool* by the artist Kam Tin, a furniture-jewellery creator.



BRAFA Art Fair 2022 - Maison Rapin

Philippe d'Arschot (Belgium) has made several sales of works by six important Belgian and German silversmiths from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. **Francis Janssens van der Maelen (Belgium)** has sold various pieces of silverware and sculptures including a beautiful *Isis* statue signed Marcel Wolfers and Roger Guérin from 1922 for approximately €50.000.

The **Collectors Gallery (Belgium)** has made a very good start at the Fair and has sold several jewels signed Claude Wesel, Sofia Vari, Yener Torun, Ettore Sottsass, Lin Vautrin and Takis.

Die Galerie (Germany) parted with a work on paper signed by Paul Delvaux, *L'Aurore*, 1971, for approximately €80,000. **Cortesi Gallery (Switzerland, Italy)**, specialised in post-war art, has concluded several sales including that of a great Valerio Adami, *Interno con figura e poltrona*, 1968-1969 (between €140,000 and €160,000), an Enrico Castellani, *Superficie bianca*, 2009 (approximately €200,000) and an Augusto Bonalumi, *Bianco*, 1975 (between €120,000 and €150,000). The **Galerie AB-BA (France)** sold a Sam Francis from 1972. **Whitford Fine Art (United-Kingdom)** has made several sales, including pieces by Bram Bogart, Joseph Lacasse, and the pop artist Clive Barker, all from the 1950s, as well as by the Belgian sculptor Paul Van Hoeydonck, 1961. **Samuel Vanhoegaerden (Belgium)** who is offering a selection of logograms by Christian Dotremont, has concluded several sales ranging between €10,000 and €100,000.

Baronian (Belgium) sold a piece by Robert Mangold, *Four squares within a square 3*, 1974, for the sum of €320,000. At **QG Gallery (Belgium)**, new participant, sales have focused on the works of minimalist American artists such as Donald Judd, *Untitled*, 1989, or Kenneth Noland, *Punctual*, 1979. Finally, **Maruani Mercier (Belgium)** has sold more than a dozen paintings by Arne Quinze, with prices ranging between €50,000 and €125,000.