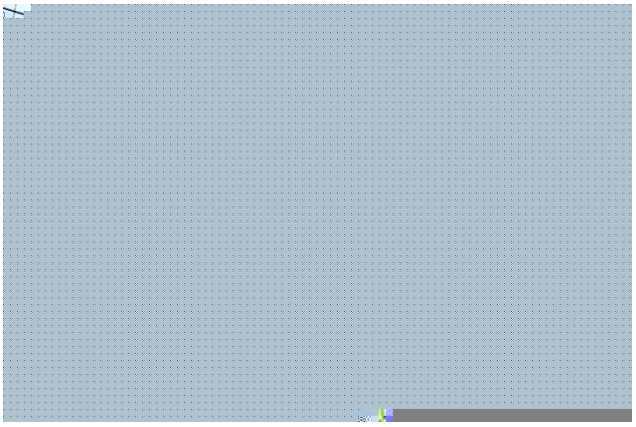
PRESS RELEASE – OPENING OF BRAFA 2017

BRAFA 2017, AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Brussels, Tour & Taxis, from 21 to 29 January 2017



Brussels, 18/01/2017 – *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. This famous Olympic motto, devised by Pierre de Coubertin, could apply perfectly to Brafa as well, in its aspiration to surpass itself, offer the best it has and renew itself for each edition. To meet this challenge, 132 antiquarians and gallerists from [illegible] offer the most beautiful, rarest or most refined of their respective specialities. Archaeology, painting, furniture, sculpture, tribal art, silverware, jewellery, design, contemporary art: all the multimillennial diversity of artistic creation is gathered together and offered to the curiosity of collectors and art lovers from the four corners of Europe and beyond. From 21 to 29 January, the artistic heart beats in Brussels.

As the first international art fair of the year, Brafa traditionally opens the calendar of major artistic events. Hence it is no exaggeration to say that each edition is eagerly awaited both by collectors and gallerists keen to discover or exhibit the latest acquisitions, in a context that is increasingly competitive and where the quest for rarity is the rule when it comes to the most venerable objects.

The main distinguishing feature of Brafa lies in its eclecticism and in its great openness to all forms of art. It encourages a diversity of genres, the latter being reflected notably in a free arrangement of stands where all specialities are mixed together and intersect so as to create unexpected dialogues along the visit. This arrangement is the deliberate choice of its organizers. Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, President of Brafa, notes: *[illegible]*. *cabinet, blending with panache the different types of art. Brafa adopts the vision of the collector, who today seeks synergy among the different eras and styles, welcomes their intersection, is open to all cultures, and tends toward a form of unity within diversity. Mixity is part of our daily experience, our current way of life, and so it is natural that it is also reflected in our artistic tastes and choices.»*

If Brafa's offer is high-[illegible], tending to respond to specific content expectations of the different profiles of art lovers to whom it is directed. Thus, museum conservators or established collectors can find there the specific work lacking in their collection, while the regular art lover can also be captivated by another, equally high-quality work of art. Whatever the segment of the art market, quality is the common denominator that links all the works on exhibit.

- At Klaas Muller (stand 90d), Tarquin and Lucretia, a mythological work treated with a high degree of sensuality by Jan Massys, Flemish school, c. 1550.
- At the Kunstberatung Zürich AG (stand 9c), a fine *Still Life with Trays of Oysters, Dried Fruit, Chestnuts and Sweets* by David Rijckaert II (Antwerp, 1586-1642), oil on panel.

Modern painting

- At Aktis Gallery (stand 7c), collages by Le Corbusier, a very rare set of several works dating from the 1920s, his purist period, when he still signed as Jeanneret.
- A very beautiful *Woman and Birds* by Joan Miró, 1976 is not to be missed at the Galerie de la Béraudière (stand 87d)
- The Boon Gallery (stand 78c) presents a large selection of international artists, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, Henry Moore and Gerhard Richter.
- The GalerieBoulakia (stand 139a) exhibits works by Picasso, Max Ernst, Karel Appel, Fernando Botero, etc., as well as a seductive painting by Marc Chagall, *The Betrothed at the Circus*, 1982.
- At the Galerie Oscar De Vos (stand 117c), alongside a very lovely drawing of a siren by Paul Delvaux, is a seasonal painting: *Boy in the Snow*, 1918, by Frits Van Den Berghe (1883-1939).
- Paul Delvaux is given the place of honour at [illegible] (stand [illegible]), President of BRAFA. An unusual sculpture in in eggshell by the Belgian Marcel Broodthaers datfed 1967 is not to be missed.
- The Galerie des Modernes (stand 75c) presents a fine Pierre Renoir in 'postcard fo bathed in light, representing a Landscape of Magagenosc near Grasse, 1901.
- At the Opera Gallery (stand 134a), a unique and very unusual decorative set of three masks in painted metal, created by Alexander Calder in 1949 for the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.
- The Stern Pissarro Gallery (stand 119d) offers a remarkable and unusual painting by the young Magritte (the 'neocubi *Nocturne*, dated 1923, in large fo at with lively colours.

Sculpture

- At the Galerie de la Béraudière (stand 87d) their reigns a superb bronze, *Two young leopards one behind the other* by Rembrandt Bugatti (Milan 1884-1916 Paris), famous for his animal sculptures.
- At the Galerie Desmet (stand 39b), a very beautiful terracotta *Saint Hubert* by Jacques de Koninck (1703-1777), Brussels, 1756
- At Xavier Eeckhout (stand 29c): one of the major pieces, *Héron*, by Albéric Collin (1886-1962).
- At the Galerie Fleury (stand 85d), a monumental piece by Ossip Zadkine (1890-1967), *Homo sapiens* (1936), sculpture in patinated plaster more than 2 meters tall.
- Finch & Co (stand 37b), specializing in curiosities, presents among other things a pair of models of two French cathedral façades (the Notre-Dame in Paris and in Rodez) carved in walnut, France, late 18th – early 19th c.
- Francis Maere Gallery Fine Arts (stand 55a) pays homage to the Fanco-Belgian sculptor belge Etienne Dodeigne; of particular note are a '*Groupe des cinq*' a unique piece representing five stylized figures in Soignies stone (c. 1990) (180 x 80 x 28cm), various bronzes and charcoal drawings on paper by Dodeigne.
- Galerie Sismann (stand 66a) presents a fine bronze, *Christ at the Column*, after François Duquesnoy, late 17th century.

Carpets and tapestries

- De Wit Fine Tapestries (stand 107c) offers a tapestry of great finesse, representing a pair of flower vases under a pergola, attributed to the Beauvais Manufacture, early 18th century, in wool and silk.
- The N. Vrouyrfirm (stand 31c) is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation and the 60th anniversary of its participation in BRAFA! For this double anniversary, it is exhibiting various carpets from Iran, Turkey and Turkestan (Xinjiang Province, China) from the 19th and 20th centuries.

BRAFA Brussels Art Fair
Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 86 C – 1000 Brussels

www.brafa.art
Please follow BRAFA on Twitter @BRAFA_Brussels, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube.

Press contact for Belgium and foreign coordination
Bruno Nélis - b.nelis@brafa.be - GSM +32(0)476.399.579