

# BRAFA ART FAIR

BRAFA 2023: The 68<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fair generates a lot of enthusiasm



BRAFA 2023 - General View © Olivier Pirard

The enthusiasm has been palpable at this new edition of BRAFA. Since opening its doors on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Fair has won over many visitors from Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, England and the United States.

Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke: *"There is a real sense of general enthusiasm. We put all of our energy into the preparation of this 68th edition of BRAFA, to make it even more beautiful and interesting for the visitors. In light of the compliments we have received over the past few days, it seems we are on the right track."*

This 68<sup>th</sup> edition has been met with great appreciation by collectors and art lovers, for the quality of the 130 international participating galleries, the beauty of the stands, the juxtaposition of specialities in the aisles, the Fair's carpet inspired by Victor Horta's drawings and the pleasant atmosphere that reigns. This has been illustrated by the exchanges and contacts created by the galleries, and by the many sales which have already been made.

On the Belgian side, the **Costermans & Pelgrims de Bigard** gallery (BE) parted with a painting by Frans Francken the Younger, *Moses strikes the rock*, late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Cédric Pelgrims de Bigard is delighted with this BRAFA 2023: “*We are delighted to see that many visitors come. Everybody is enthusiastic, we have heard nothing but compliments.*” **Francis Maere** (BE) sold a sculpture by Eugene Dodeigne, *Figure*, 1966, in Soignies stone, a piece by Christian Dotremont, *Le temps est une harpe qui joue toujours autrement la même chose*, 1972, Indian ink on paper, for approximately 100,000 euros, as well as a still life by Rik Wouters, *Interior aquaforte*, circa 1911, for about 300,000 euros.

A pair of Sgabello’s 16<sup>th</sup>-century carved chairs was sold for between 30,000 and 40,000 euros by **Gallery Desmet** (BE) and at **De Wit Fine Tapestries** (BE), several tapestries, including its centrepiece *Chasse au cerf*, dating from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, were acquired by collectors.

For **Röbbig München** (DE), specialised in Meissen porcelain and 18<sup>th</sup>-century furniture, paintings and art objects, sales have included *A lady playing the spinet, with cavalier*, in Meissen porcelain, 1741, produced by the great Johann Joachim Kaendler, which was bought by a collector for 220,000 euros.

**Galerie Pascal Cuisinier** (FR), a new exhibitor specialised in 1950s design, sold a rare lamp by Robert Mathieu from 1952, the only currently-known example of this type. Pascal Cuisinier, a first-time exhibitor, has been particularly appreciative of the atmosphere of the fair: “*We received an incredible welcome. We are getting very positive feedback on our work from visitors and neighbouring galleries. It’s a real pleasure to be here.*” At the **Galerie de la Présidence** (FR), several pieces by Geer van Velde attracted collectors, including a large-format oil on canvas entitled *Composition*, circa 1954, which sold for approximately 150,000 euros. A three-panel screen by Max Ernst, *Le Grand Ignorant*, circa 1974, was sold to a collector by the **Galerie Berès** (FR).

The **Dalton Somaré** gallery (IT), specialised in tribal art, sold one of its key pieces: the *mukudj* mask, Punu, Gabon, late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Tomaso Vigorelli is very satisfied with this 68th edition: “*We came to BRAFA to meet new collectors and we are always happy to be able to win over new audiences who have no interest in tribal art to begin with and who end up discovering a new speciality.*”

The contemporary art gallery **Nosbaum Reding** (LUX/BE), present at BRAFA for the second time, has sold a work by Fatiha Zemmouri, *Jannah*, 2022, in earth and pigments on wood.

For its first participation, the **Van den Bruinhorst** gallery (NL), specialised in historical design and art objects from the interwar period, devoted its stand to the De Stijl movement and Modernism. The exhibitor sold a decorative ceramic plaque from the exclusive ceramic collection of Bart van der Leck, a member of De Stijl, to a major American museum, The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas.

In terms of the British galleries, *Stairs*, a sculpture by Lynn Chadwick from 1990, was sold by the **Osborne Samuel Gallery** (UK) for more than 400,000 euros. The **Stern Pissaro Gallery** (UK) sold a piece by Yayoi Kusama, *Glass*, for a similar sum of approximately 450,000 euros.

Finally, the King Baudouin Foundation acquired a set of chairs by Victor Horta from **Thomas Deprez Fine Arts** (BE) for the Art & History Museum of Brussels.

BRAFA’s doors are open until Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Practical information:

BRAFA will be held from Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Brussels Expo in Halls 3 and 4. The Fair will be open every day from 11am to 7pm, with a late-night opening until 10pm on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 [Dates and Hours | Brafa Art Fair](#)

Every day, at 4pm, BRAFA invites you to the stand of the King Baudouin Foundation (no.131) for the BRAFA Art Talks. The full programme can be found here: [Brafa Art Talks | Brafa Art Fair](#)

All photos (Selected artworks, stands, Art nouveau, logos) can be downloaded in HD here: [Press Images | Brafa Art Fair](#)

Website: <https://www.brafa.art/en>

**Organised by the Foire des Antiquaires de Belgique asbl**

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