

PRESS RELEASE – 02.02.2020

**BRAFA 2020 ends with a bang: a total of €326,000 reached at the charity auction of 5 segments of the Berlin Wall, plus a record number of visitors and increased sales!**

BERLIN WALL CHARITY AUCTION



SEGMENT N°1  
CURRENT BID: 70.000€



SEGMENT N°2  
CURRENT BID: 60.000€



SEGMENT N°3  
CURRENT BID: 62.000€



SEGMENT N°4  
CURRENT BID: 70.000€



SEGMENT N°5  
CURRENT BID: 64.000€



The closing event of Brafa 2020, the charity auction of five original segments of the Berlin Wall, organised to mark the fair's 65<sup>th</sup> edition, was a resounding success. With €326,000 gained from the sale, the organisers' expectations were proved far below the mark: 'We hoped to reach €25,000 for each segment and we reached figures well above that for each one. The bidding was tight, right up to the closure of the sale. We received bids from hopeful buyers in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and even from a University in the USA', said Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, the fair's President.

The five beneficiaries of the sale (active in the domains of cancer research, the integration of people with disabilities, and cultural heritage) will receive, respectively: *Hart voor Handicap* €60,000; *CAP48* €62,000; *Musée Art & Histoire* €64,000; *Télévie – FNRS* €70,000 and *Kom op tegen Kanker* €70,000.

The five segments will now make their way to their new owners in Belgium and beyond.

## **New visitor number record**

Another figure to note is the visitor number recorded at the end of Brafa 2020: 68,000 (in comparison to 66,000 in 2019)! This record is the more remarkable because the 2020 edition was one day shorter than those that preceded it, when the fair was open to the public from Sunday to Sunday.

## **Excellent sales for exhibitors**

Satisfaction was also in evidence among exhibitors, who reported stronger sales than previous years. Most are full of praise regarding the evolution of the fair and the quality of visitors, which is notably increasingly international. For many, the most important Belgian fair's potential remains vast. All sectors made remarkable sales, as the selection below demonstrates:

- The stand of Samuel Vanhoegaerden (Knokke) was a focal point for the press and unanimously acclaimed. He sold almost every artwork from his incredible collection of pieces by James Ensor, at prices ranging from €50,000 to €700,000.
- Guy Pieters (Knokke) also attracted attention with his large-scale drawings by Christo, made in preparation for his wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe planned for next September, which found buyers at prices from €600,000 and €1.2 million.
- Alexis Pentcheff (Marseille), was also highly successful, notably presenting a beautiful selection of Post-Impressionist paintings and a rare collection of Nabis works (for prices sometimes reaching several hundred thousand euros); deserving special mention is a rare oil on cardboard dated 1894 by Pierre Bonnard (*Jeune femme endormie*) which found a buyer on the first day.
- Numerous galleries reported their best ever result at Brafa: Vrouyr (Anvers), for example, who sold an Art Deco rug by Albert Van Nuffel and a Bakhtar Shustar kilim from Iran (dated circa 1900); Alexis Lartigue (Paris); Galerie de la Béraudière (Brussels), who sold a bronze by Joan Miro (*Femme et Oiseau*, 1968), and a magnificent *Red Circle* (2010) by Bosco Sodi. De Wit Fine Tapestries (Malines) sold no less than 6 tapestries, and Charly Bailly sold the two most important pieces on his stand for about €500,000 each.
- A number of returning exhibitors reported an excellent fair. These include Véronique Bamps (Brussels), Francis Janssens van der Maelen (Brussels) and Galerie De Jonckheere (Geneva) who reported numerous ongoing sales of modern and antique pieces.
- The Belgian artists presented on diverse stands were also highly sought after. La Patinoire Royale / Galerie Valérie Bach (Brussels) sold one of their star pieces, a sculpture by Pol Bury (*21 Rods Reflected in a Curve*, 1967) to the King Baudoin Foundation. This piece will be exhibited at the L de Louvain-la-Neuve Museum.
- Rodolphe Janssen (Brussels), sold a huge monochrome work by Bram Bogart for €110,000. A specialist in the Laethem School, Oscar De Vos had an excellent fair, selling works by Georges Minne, Emile Claus (*La Faneuse*, 1891), Valerius de Saedeleer (*Paysage d'hiver*, 1925), Frits van den Berghe (*Fleurs*, 1929), and an

exceptional piece by Albert Servaes entitled *Enterrement chez les pauvres*, 1907, a work which has been shown in numerous museums.

- A large-format painting by Pierre Alechinsky found a buyer on the stand of DIE GALERIE (Frankfurt) who confirmed Brafa to be their '*favourite fair!*'. Works by Panamarenko (recently deceased), was in great demand on the stand of Jos Jamar (Anvers) who sold statues/flying machines from an edition of thirty, titled *Donderwolk* and dated 2019, plus works by James Ensor and Pierre Alechinsky. With works exhibited at the Royal Academy in London from the end of the month, Léon Spilliaert attracted a lot of interest: *Femme regardant la mer*, 1902 (on Jos Jamar's stand), and *La Baigneuse*, 1910 (shown by Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke and sold to a Belgian Museum) were both quick to find buyers, while Francis Maere (Ghent) has other works under negotiation. Francis Maere also sold one of his star pieces (*Grand carnaval ostendais*, by Félix Labisse, 1934) and works by other Belgian artists such as Henri Evenepoel, Emile Claus and Eugène Dodeigne to Belgian, French, English and Italian collectors, underlining the increasing interest in Belgian art.
- Works on paper and collages by Le Corbusier were sold by the MARUANI MERCIER gallery for prices ranging between €30,000 and €200,000.
- Tribal art is traditionally one of Brafa's strong points and this hasn't changed. Adrian Schlag (Brussels) sold one of his focal pieces, an Mblo, Baule culture mask from the Ivory Coast for around €280,000. The new participant Dalton Somaré (Milan) sold an important Kota-Obamba bi-face guardian figure dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, for a 6-figure sum. More accessibly priced sales also abounded. The presentation *Wild Spirits* created by Charles-Wesley Hourdé (Paris), which focused on the theme of animal masks in Western Africa, was hugely successful, with numerous sales at purposefully accessible prices (ranging from €4,000 to €25,000). Another thematic presentation staged by Serge Schoffel (Brussels), resulted in the sale of 75% of the forty-odd sacred aboriginal *churinga* pieces on show, which quickly found buyers at similar prices.
- A specialist in animal bronzes, Xavier Eeckhout (Paris) was delighted with his dozen sales which included that of a sculpture by Albéric Collin (*La harde*, for around €100,000) and that of a bronze by Auguste Trémont (*Panthère se tournant*, for around €40,000).
- Röbbig München is renowned for his knowledge about Meissen porcelain. The pieces he sold include a pair of hexagonal vases made for a Royal Court dated 1735.
- All of the works by the artist Takehiko Sugawara found buyers at the Galerie Taménaga (Paris), at prices ranging from €9,000 to €88,000.
- Gallery Desmet (Brussels) reported a number of excellent sales including that of a wooden sculpture representing the crucifixion of Saint André (Southern Germany, early 18<sup>th</sup> century) for an undisclosed price, a Roman marble bust (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, for around €100,000) and three 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian terracotta pieces (for between €35,000 and €65,000).
- In the domain of Ancient Art, Costermans (Brussels) sold an important daybed stamped Georges Jacob, dating from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Floris van Wanroij (Dommelen) sold several works to new and existing clients, notably her star

piece entitled *L'Adoration des Bergers*, an oil on panel by the Master of the Morrison Triptyque (southern Netherlands, circa 1505).

- Finally, several sales were made or are in the course of negotiation to international museums. Philippe d'Arschot (Brussels) notably sold two pieces of antique European silverware to a museum in Northern France and a third to a museum in Japan.

**The next edition of Brafa will take place from 24 – 31 January 2021.**

[www.brafa.art](http://www.brafa.art)

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