

The logo for Brafa Art Fair features the text "BRAFA ART FAIR" in a blue, serif font. A large, stylized "70" is positioned behind the text, with the "7" in green and the "0" in pink, both composed of horizontal lines.

BRAFA ART FAIR

Rare Masterpieces by Henry van de Velde: Iconic Meissen Dinner Service and Bauhaus-Era Chair to Debut at Brafa Art Fair

Brussels, December 2024 — At the upcoming Brafa Art Fair, collectors and art enthusiasts will have the rare opportunity to witness and acquire two extraordinary creations by Henry van de Velde (1863–1957). The work of this visionary architect and artist bridged the worlds of Art Nouveau and modernism. Kunstconsult presents an exceptionally rare Meissen dinner service and an early Bauhaus-style chair by Van de Velde. These masterpieces embody his innovative approach to design and mark key moments in the history of 20th-century applied arts.

A Rare and Iconic Meissen Dinner Service

Central to Kunstconsult's presentation is the legendary "Peitschenhieb" dinner service, designed by Van de Velde for the Meissen porcelain manufactory in 1902-1904. Produced from 1904 onwards, the service marked Meissen's pivot toward modernity, a response to the criticism of traditionalism it faced at the Paris World Exposition in 1900. Van de Velde, renowned for his revolutionary designs, spent over a year perfecting the service, which harmoniously integrates his dynamic "whiplash" motif across diverse pieces.

The offered set – comprising 58 pieces for 12 persons – is among the rarest surviving examples. Only three other services are known to exist worldwide: in private collections in Germany and the United States and in the Neues Museum Weimar. This fourth and only known set on the market comes from a European private collection, painstakingly assembled over 25 years. All pieces bear Meissen's signature blue swords and Van de Velde's impressed mark, signifying early production.

This dinner service represents not just an artistic milestone but also a historical turning point, linking Art Nouveau aesthetics with the emerging Bauhaus ethos of functional beauty. Van de Velde's "Peitschenhieb" service has drawn international acclaim, most notably during the exhibition for the 150th-anniversary of his birth in 2013, showcasing his work in both Weimar and Brussels.



A Rare Chair from the Dawn of Bauhaus

Alongside the dinner service, Kunstconsult will present a rare 1911 armchair by Van de Velde, crafted in white-painted beech or ash by Scheidemantel Weimar. This chair, a striking departure from the flowing Art Nouveau forms of Van de Velde's earlier works, reflects his evolving design philosophy and foreshadows the functional minimalism of Bauhaus.

Only four examples of this model are known: two in the collection of the Stadtmuseum Berlin, one in a private German collection, and the offered chair, sourced from a Dutch private collection. Its inclusion in the upcoming catalog raisonné of Van de Velde's furniture by the Klassik Stiftung Weimar underscores its importance.



Henry van de Velde: Pioneer of Modernism

Van de Velde's influence extends far beyond these objects. As a multifaceted artist, architect, and educator, he shaped the trajectory of modern design. His foundational role in the Bauhaus movement – he laid the groundwork for Walter Gropius's leadership – and his innovative pedagogical ideas at institutions like La Cambre in Brussels cemented his legacy. His designs, rooted in the principle that "form follows function," revolutionized applied arts and architecture. The "Peitschenhieb" service and the Bauhaus-era chair exemplify this philosophy, offering collectors a unique opportunity to own pieces that bridge two defining artistic eras.

Experience These Masterpieces at BRAFA

Kunstconsult invites art lovers and collectors to visit booth 76 at BRAFA to experience the genius of Henry van de Velde firsthand. These two rare and significant treasures are bound to captivate connoisseurs and evoke international interest.

About Kunstconsult

Kunstconsult is a leading gallery specializing in 20th-century applied arts, representing exceptional works by iconic designers, with a focus on Art Nouveau, Art Deco, early modernism and post war design. The gallery is located in a historic rusk factory building on the river Zaan in Zaandam, the Netherlands.

For further information and images, please contact:

Kunstconsult – 20th century art | objects – **STAND NR 76**

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