

BRAFA ART FAIR

BRAFA 2025

13.06.2024

A new Chairman for BRAFA: Klaas Muller

The members of the nonprofit organisation Foire des Antiquaires de Belgique, which organises the BRAFA Art Fair, held their Statutory General Meeting this Thursday June 13th, as they do every year in June. On the agenda was the renewal of their Board of Directors for a 3-year term.

Following the vote, Klaas Muller was elected Chairman of BRAFA. He succeeds Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, who has served four consecutive terms and who, like his predecessors, has elevated the Fair in its evolution within the European art market. Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke, outgoing Chairman, has received the title of Honorary Chairman.

To support the new Chairman **Klaas Muller** in his mission and complete the Board of Directors, 6 other members have been (re)elected:

Christophe Boon (Boon Gallery in Knokke: modern and contemporary art)

Didier Claes (Claes Gallery in Brussels: classical African art)

Tobias Desmet (Gallery Desmet in Brussels: classical sculpture from Antiquity to the Neoclassical period)

Arnaud Jaspar-Costermans (Costermans in Brussels: antique paintings, furniture and art objects from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century)

Jean Lemaire (Lemaire in Brussels: old earthenware and porcelain)

Herwig Simons (Herwig Simons Fine Arts in Brussels: art objects from Antiquity to the present day)

Short biography of Klaas Muller:

Klaas Muller was born in 1975 in Lokeren. After studying art history in Ghent, he opened his gallery in 2000 at the Sablon in Brussels. He now welcomes visitors at his home in Lokeren where he continues to satisfy his collector-customers' taste for Old Master paintings and drawings. Klaas Muller is passionate about paintings, drawings and sculptures from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, with a particular focus for Italian, Dutch and Flemish masters. He is regularly called upon by museums.

He first joined BRAFA in 2004. Having been a member of the Board of Directors since 2015, he was appointed Vice-Chairman (Antiques and Old Masters) of the Fair in 2021.



Klaas Muller © Guy Kokken

3 questions for Klaas Muller:

How do you see your role as the new Chairman?

BRAFA has always been a very eclectic fair – it's part of our identity. My role as Chairman will be to safeguard what we have created whilst bringing even more quality and diversity in terms of specialities. The last Fair in January 2024 was very much appreciated for the quality of the participating galleries and the beauty of the setting. It's important for us to continue in this vein, whilst attracting other disciplines that remain under-represented. It's a constant search for balance.

What is your vision for the future of BRAFA?

It's precisely thanks to our specific identity and our critical vision that we will continue to be able offer the best. I see the future in a positive light. Audiences of connoisseurs and art lovers will always be attracted by beauty and quality, regardless of the economic and political climate. Of course, there are many challenges ahead, but I am convinced that we are well equipped to meet them, together with the enthusiastic team of staff, the members of the association and the members of the Board of Directors. We will remain attentive to developments in the art market and other fairs, but also to the needs of the galleries that make up BRAFA.

What are the current challenges facing the Fair?

In Belgium we are lucky enough to have an impressive number of collectors and art lovers per square metre, but the world is in constant flux and under no circumstances can we simply look at what's happening in Belgium. BRAFA has to become an essential event for international collectors. Which is why we need to attract even more exhibitors, art connoisseurs and visitors from Europe and beyond. There are still developments to be made in this regard.

BRAFA 2025:

This election coincides with an anniversary year for BRAFA, as the Fair will be celebrating its 70th edition. BRAFA 2025 will be held from Sunday January 26th to Sunday, February 2nd at Brussels Expo in Halls 3 and 4. In 2024, 67,000 art lovers flocked to the aisles of the Fair.

Since BRAFA's founding in 1956, a constant quest for excellence has been the driving force behind its development. Over the years, BRAFA has expanded, internationalised and changed venue several times without losing any of its elegance, with one simple aim: to offer an art fair of ever-increasing quality.

BRAFA is an international fair with Belgian roots. Each year, it selects and welcomes over 130 major galleries. BRAFA also prides itself on being an eclectic fair. Visitors can discover 21 specialities from every continent over the 21,000m² of exhibition space: ancient and modern paintings and drawings, furniture and art objects from the Middle Ages, the Haute Epoque and the Renaissance, contemporary art, design, sculptures, archaeology, classical African art, Asian art, porcelain and ceramics, ancient and contemporary silver, jewellery, glassware, textiles and carpets, prints, rare books, photography, etc.

Two days are devoted to the vetting before the opening of the Fair. All the works of art are scrutinised by more than 80 international experts in terms of quality, authenticity and provenance.

If you would like to request an interview, further information or photos, please contact Vanessa Polo Friz at v.polofriz@brafa.be

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