

News Europe's oldest fair set to dazzle as BRAFA continues its new lease of life



David Moss

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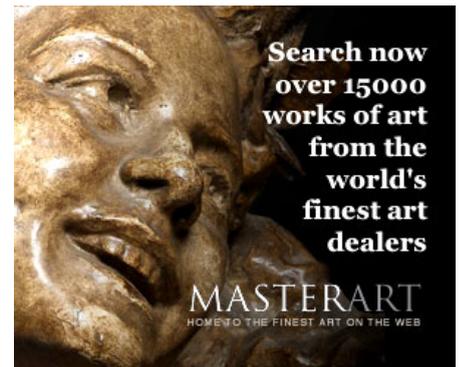
With the exception of Miami early in the month where there is frenetic contemporary art activity (which I am told was very successful this year) December is a time when the international trade winds down and with the exception of exhibitions proffering Christmas gifts dealers take a rest until they start business again in earnest in the second half of January.

So here is an early reminder of the event which kick starts the art market in Europe, BRAFA (the Brussels Antiques & Fine Art Fair) which will be held in the spacious listed halls of Tour & Taxis, the epitome of industrial chic, from January 25 to February 2.

Now in its 59th year BRAFA is Europe's longest running fair, but while for decades it was a showcase for the Belgian trade, and as such somewhat parochial, since the move to Tour & Taxis 11 years ago it has got better and better and is now an international fixture with world-ranking status.

Last year attracted a record 48,000 visitors but this year the organisers are aiming to top 50,000 with a line-up of 131 exhibitors from over a dozen countries, although Belgium still has the highest number at 51.

BRAFA is strong on the disciplines for which Belgium is best known, such as medieval art, like the early 15th century altarpiece from Southern Spain we illustrate, which will be shown by Belgian specialist De Backker.



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December 2013

Baroni is the latest recruit to Manhattan's big draw



BRUSSELS is the focus of international attention in Europe in late January but at the same time New York also really gets into gear and a major draw is the eighth Master Drawings in New York around t...

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Curators galore throng Tableau as Old Masters market gets a Parisian boost



NOTING the spectacular success of contemporary and modern art the Old Masters market seems hard work, possibly surprising considering the age and provenance of many of the pictures and the fact that ...

Young Aronson steps in at TEFAF and sets out to puzzle New York



ARONSON Antiquairs of Amsterdam, probably the world's premier specialists in Dutch Delftware, will once again be

Other strengths are antiquities, modern art, 20th century design (which is beefed up this time) and tribal art. Brussels' standing as a world centre for ethnographic art will be emphasised at BRAFA by an exhibition from one of the world's great tribal collections, the museum of Tervuren, just outside the capital, which is about to close until 2017 for renovations.

Increasingly a fair not to be missed there will be more on BRAFA in my next column.



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exhibiting at the annual Winter Antiques Show, which will be held for its 60th edition...

Goedhuis on a mission to convert the world to Chinese Ink Painting



UBIQUITOUS is the only way to describe London Chinese art dealer Michael Goedhuis's presence at the major international

art fairs. I can think of no other dealer who shows at more events, or come to ...

Kensington dealers celebrate their half century with a trip to the Florida sun



RENOWNED Kensington Church Street fine furniture specialists Butchoff Antiques celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2014 and kick

off celebrations with a stand at the Palm Beach Jewelry, Art and Antiq...

Against expectations the most expensive ever Chinese bronze stays in the West



AS expected, the sensation of Asian Art in London in November was the outstanding bronze vessel known as Bo Ju gui, which was

offered by Eskenazi at a price in the region of \$12m. It sold. But what wa...

Young Russians know their icons and make their mark at Dutch specialist's first London show



TOP international icon dealers Jan Morsink Ikonen from Amsterdam, regular TEFAF exhibitors, could not have been happier with their

first London show of Russian and Greek icons which was held at the W...

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