

# ... for a Brussels bonanza

**Right: De Wit Fine Tapestries** are taking this 5ft 6in x 12ft 10in (1.69 x 3.9m) wool and silk Millefleurs tapestry to *BRAFA*. Woven in Bruges, it dates from the second quarter of the 16th century, bears the arms of the de Lechy family and comes from the Abbey of Herkenrode through the Abbess, Mathilde de Lechy, who also commissioned some celebrated stained glass windows for the Abbey which are now in Lichfield Cathedral. The Mechelen-based Belgian dealers are asking €340,000 for it.



## Winter BRUNEAF

WHILE *BRAFA* will have many collectors and enthusiasts flocking to the Belgian capital, the big fair at the Tour & Taxis is not the only show in town.

In the centre of Brussels in the Sablons district, which is famous for its concentration of antiques shops and galleries, 31 dealers in tribal art will be gathering together to present the *Winter BRUNEAF* from January 22-26.

The *BRUNEAF* (Brussels Non European Art Fair) initiative was started by Pierre Loos in 1983 and is a showcase for the Tribal Art dealers clustered in galleries round the Place du Grand Sablon. It now holds two tribal trails each year: one in summer and the other in winter.

A new committee was elected last October when the chairmanship passed to Brussels dealer Didier Claes and a new expert admissions and ethics committee was set up for participating galleries.

The close concentration of galleries in around half a dozen small streets means you don't have to walk far to take in all the exhibitors and you can break your journey with at one of the numerous small bars and cafés that also populate the Sablon area.

As usual, the mix features local resident dealers who make up the majority of participants but also includes guests from further afield (principally Paris but also the UK, Spain, the Netherlands and Morocco) who take gallery space to present their stock. Several of the participants are also standing at *BRAFA* at the same time.

The tribal mix is worldwide: much comes from Africa, of course, given the colonial history of Belgium, but Oceanic, American and South-East Asian work is also represented and to ring the changes there is also a handful of dealers showing antiquities.

[www.bruneaf.com](http://www.bruneaf.com)

### Eurantica

THE next big fair event in Brussels will be *Eurantica* which is staged in mid March (14-23) at Bruxelles Expo, where 125 Belgian and other European dealers will be setting out their stands. [www.eurantica.be](http://www.eurantica.be)

Photo: F. Dehaen - Studio Asselberghs



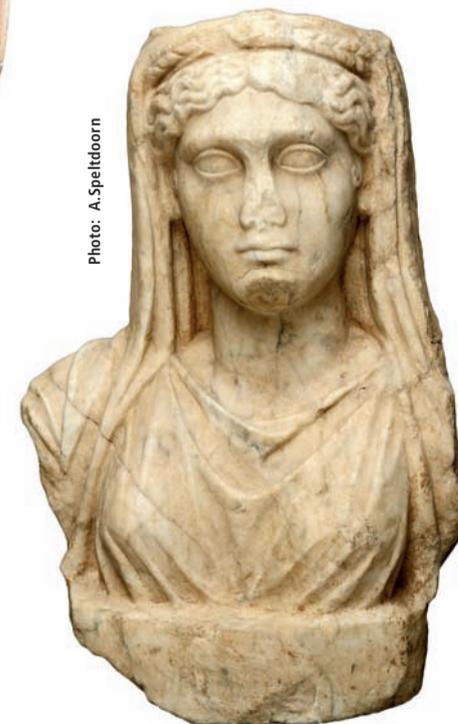
Photo: P. De Formanoir - Paso Doble



**Left: Didier Claes**, *BRUNEAF*'s new chairman, is one of the dealers who will be busy with a stand at *BRAFA* as well as showing in his Brussels gallery on the Rue Van Moer for the *Winter BRUNEAF*. His exhibits include this 14in (36cm) high kaolin and ochre-painted Fang mask from Okande, Gabon. It dates from the late 19th, early 20th century and was formerly in the US collection of Mrs Arthur Bath. It is priced at €35,000.

**Right: the Drees Archeo Gallery** is resident in the Rue des Minimes and is one of the antiquities specialists participating in *BRUNEAF*. Drees Archeo's stock includes coins, near Eastern, ancient Egyptian and classical Greek and Roman works including this 20in (52cm) high marble Graeco-Roman bust of the goddess Ceres from the 1st century BC/AD which is priced in the region of €38,000.

Photo: A. Speltdoorn



**Left: Brussels dealer Bernard de Grunne**, who is exhibiting in his Avenue Franklin Roosevelt Gallery, will be showing this 14½in (37cm) high Bangwa Night Society mask from Cameroon. It was formerly in the well-known Kerchache collection and is priced at €65,000.