

PRESS RELEASE

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The Heritage Fund's masterpieces on show at the 2012 BRAFA

The King Baudouin Foundation has been at the service of our heritage for 25 years.

This year, the King Baudouin Foundation's Heritage Fund is celebrating its 25th anniversary in style as the 2012 BRAFA's the guest of honour. The Fund is commemorating this wonderful occasion by putting together a selection of masterpieces from its collection in a setting designed by François Schuiten.

These pieces represent only a part of the collection, but they admirably reflect the quality and diversity that constitute its richness. The event will be a rare opportunity to admire such a brilliant sample of Belgium's heritage.

Over the last 25 years, the King Baudouin Foundation's Heritage Fund has endeavoured to save the most significant works of our heritage and has devoted a million euros a year to doing this. During these years, and thanks to numerous donations, the Fund has succeeded in building a collection of enormous value that today comprises some 7,000 works of art and 6 archival funds. From Jacob Jordaens to Philippe Wolfers, the collection is characterized by great diversity, as much from a chronological as a typological perspective. Each item is entrusted to a public institution (a museum, archive, centre for instance), which offers the very best context in which to make the item accessible to the public. The works are spread over some twenty public institutions across Belgium.



c/o KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION – Public utility foundation

RUE BREDERODE 21 B-1000 BRUSSELS

TEL +32-2-511 18 40 FAX +32-2-511 52 21

WWW.KBS-FRB.BE INFO@KBS-FRB.BE

BANQUE DE LA POSTE IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404 BIC: BPOTBEB1 with the mention "P50000 Fonds du Patrimoine"

Celebrating 25 years at the service of Belgium's heritage is thus an event that is dear to us. The Fund has therefore joined forces with François Schuiten, who has used his talent to highlight some 30 of the most remarkable works in the collection

Our grateful thanks go to the Antique Fair's organizers and to all of those who support us in our passion for the nation's heritage.

Three wonderful stories

The acquisition of a work is often linked to a touching story of its being saved. If the silver ewer and bowl that belonged to Rubens have remained in Belgium, it is thanks to Chevalier Pierre Bauchau, an important collector of antique silverware. The pieces were put on sale in Monaco in 2000 and it was he who went to Monaco so that future generations might enjoy them. No public collection would have had either the speed or the financial means to intervene.

The recent repatriation of the Christian Dotremont Fund to Belgium cannot be fully understood without referring to the real love story between Christian Dotremont, his brother Guy and Brussels, which was the nerve centre of the Cobra movement. This is a story that has a really happy ending, following the decision of the French Community of Belgium to house the Archives et Musées de la Littérature at number 10, Rue de la Paille in the heart of Brussels, where the poet Christian Dotremont lived and welcomed numerous Cobra artists.

Henri Evenepoel's emblematic work 'Charles au jersey rayé' (Charles in the striped jumper) came back to Belgium in 2008, thanks to the homage paid to their parents by Anne and André Leysen, but also thanks to their sense of patronage. This portrait by Henri Evenepoel, one of André Leysin's favourite artists, was put up for sale on the open art market, but thanks to help from the Leysin family, the Heritage Fund was able to assemble the money necessary to acquire this masterpiece. After a period of usufruct, the painting would be returned to our Belgian public collections.

A recognized actor

Since its creation 25 years ago, the Fund has gradually become one of the major actors in the field of heritage. In addition to its role in preserving works and ensuring they are accessible to the general public, the Fund is increasingly consulted as an intermediary to facilitate initiatives to safeguard our heritage.

In collaboration with the King Baudouin Foundation's Philanthropy Centre, the Fund can also provide flexible and sustainable solutions in complex situations that have to take into consideration not only the precise wishes of donors, but also the often very rigorous demands of government and museums. Such contributions are always tailor-made.

The King Baudouin Foundation

The King Baudouin Foundation is a public utility foundation that supports projects and people working for a better society. Created in 1976 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's accession to the throne, the Foundation's aims are to make a sustainable contribution to greater justice, democracy and respect for diversity. It is authorized to accept gifts, donations, and bequests.

Practical details

- **Photographic material:** Photos are available on the FTP server via the link: https://files.kbs-frb.be/public/users/JL/BRAFA'12_images_press:
Login: kbsfrb\www_JL, *password:* Ha%)09r
- **Detailed information:** Anne De Breuck: debreuck.a@kbs-frb.be,
Tel +32-2-549 61 54, www.patrimoine-mobilier.be
- **Practical information regarding BRAFA'12 :**
Location: Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 86C, 1000 Brussels
Dates: from 21/01/2012 to 29/01/2012
Opening hours: 11.00 - 19.00
Tickets: €20

PRESS CONTACT:

KING BAUDOIN FOUNDATION

Josse Abrahams
abrahams.j@kbs-frb.be
Tel +32 (0)2 549 02 56 Mobile +32 (0)495 54 61 42

Jean-Paul Collette
collette.j@kbs-frb.be
Tel +32-2-549 02 78 Mobile +32-474-99 70 75

Rue Brederodestraat 21, B-1000 Brussels
www.kbs-frb.be