BRAFA 2023 Focuses on Art Nouveau for its 68th Edition

Art Fairs



November 19, 2022

Eli Anapur

The first art fair to visit in 2023 will be BRAFA, the major European art event that traditionally takes place in January. Again happening at the new BRAFA setting of Brussels Expo, appreciated for its openness and pleasant atmosphere, the fair will focus on **Art Nouveau** and will highlight the movement in several ways.

The King Baudouin Foundation and some galleries specialised in this field will be presenting exceptional Art nouveau pieces. The creation of the **BRAFA 2023** carpet will be based on original drawings by Victor Horta, and art lovers will be able to attend two BRAFA Art Talks devoted to Art nouveau, one will be led by Professor Werner

Adriaenssens, Curator of the Twentieth-Century Collections at the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, and the other by Benjamin Zurstrassen, Curator at the Horta Museum.

The fair is considered one of the world's oldest and most prestigious art fairs, with an exceptional showcase of rare and high-quality pieces of art and antiquities from different periods, covering around 500 years of history.

"The current context, including the upheavals linked to digital technology and the proliferation of events and fairs, has made the art market much more competitive," said **Harold t'Kint de Roodenbeke**, the Chairman of BRAFA.

> Mirroring this evolution, BRAFA must refine its concept. There is a strong desire to remain varied and diverse, but there is also a market trend that is increasingly focused on modern and contemporary art. We are very attentive to all these elements and we want to maintain a balance.



BRAFA 2022 - Galerie Schifferli © Emmanuel Crooÿ

BRAFA 2023 Exhibitors

The BRAFA's reputation relies on the quality and diversity of its galleries. For the 2023 edition, 130 confirmed their participation, with 65% of them based abroad.

"For over sixty years, BRAFA has stimulated the development of participating galleries, first at the national level, and then on the international scene. The Fair, which began as a local event, has been able to find the right tone over the years, making it possible to extend contacts with international customers," said Christian Vrouyr, the Secretary-General of BRAFA.

A number of galleries have confirmed their return for the 68th edition of BRAFA, including **Galerie de la Présidence**, which will be presenting a selection of masters from the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries such as Buffet, Derain, Dufy, Giacometti, Maillol, Matisse, Poliakoff, Vlaminck, and Vuillard.

Galerie Von Vertes, which specializes in modern and contemporary art, will be offering exceptional pieces by Albers, Calder, Chamberlain, Francis, Kusama, Lichtenstein, Miro, Poliakoff, Richter, Relief, Warhol, and Wesselmann, while **Morentz**, a gallery specializing in twentiethcentury design furniture will bring together works from all over the world and will showcase designers such as George Nakashima, Phillip Lloyd Powell, José Zanine Caldas, and Gio Ponti.

One of the leading specialists in modern British paintings and sculptures in London, **the Osbourne Samuel Gallery**, also joins other participants. The gallery is renowned for its focus on the works of Henry Moore, Lynn Chadwick, and Barbara Hepworth, the school of London painters such as Auerbach and Kossoff, abstract post-war artists such as Pasmore, Heath and Frost, and the neo-romanticists Sutherland, Vaughan, Craxton, and Clough.

The Bernier/Eliades Gallery which specializes in contemporary art will be presenting works by Susan Rothenberg and Berta Fischer while three Belgian galleries — Guy Pieters Gallery, De Brock Gallery, and Bernard De Leye — will be returning with the presentations of established contemporary artists such as Imi Knoebel, Julian Opie, Dan Walsh and Terry Winters, and unique pieces of European silverware, mainly Belgian and French, from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Eleven new galleries will be joining BRAFA this year, including Franck Anelli Fine Art, with a presentation of old Flemish, Dutch and French paintings and inlaid furniture; Ars Antiqua, based in Milan, with ancient paintings, furniture, and sculptures; Van der Meij Fine Arts, a specialist in nineteenth-century European art; Galerie Pascal Cuisinier, with French design between 1951 and 1961; Galerie Van den Bruinhorst, showcasing historic art and design objects from the twentieth century; New Hope Gallery, presenting a set of masterpieces from the history of furniture in the second half of the twentieth century; VKD Jewels with its unique range of fine and rare jewellery from the world's leading designers from the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries; Nicolas Bourriaud, showing the nineteenth and early-twentieth century French sculpture; Gallery Delaive, showing modern and contemporary art; Galerie Nicolas Lenté with antique paintings and furniture from the 17th to the 18th century; and the Librairie Amélie Sourget, specializing in rare and precious books in the fields of history of ideas, travelogues and beautifully illustrated books.

The List of Exhibitors

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Special Programs and Events

Special programs and events at BRAFA 2023 will be focusing on <u>Art</u> <u>Nouveau</u>, a style born in the late 19th century from artists' desire to live in a new and refined setting in contrast with the booming industrial world.

Several galleries at BRAFA will offer **exceptional objects** from this movement, including Epoque Fine Jewels, Thomas Deprez Fine Arts Florian Kolhammer, Galerie Cento Anni, Dr. Lennart Booij Fine Art & Rare Items, Victor Werner, Galerie Mathivet, Galerie Montanari, Marc Heiremans, Galerie Bernard De Leye.

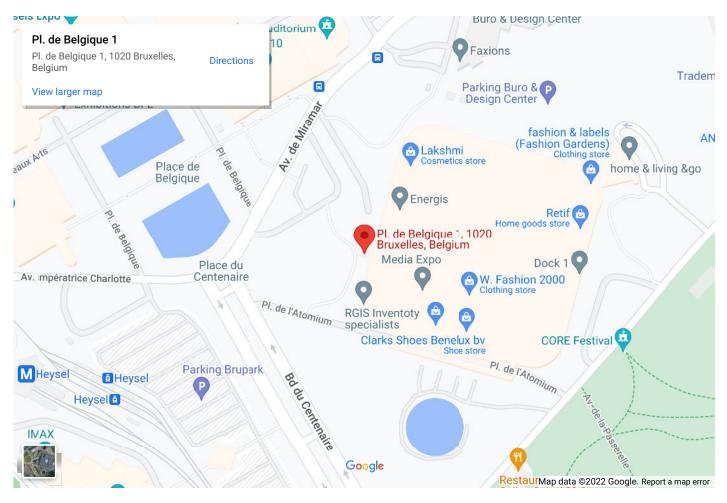
A series of talks that will be organized during BRAFA 2023 will include two talks devoted to Art Nouveau, one presented by **Benjamin Zurstrassen**, titled *Brussels 1893, the birth of Art Nouveau*, and the other by Professor **Werner Adriaenssens** — *The King Baudouin Foundation's Art Nouveau collection*.

Drawing inspiration from Victor Horta's original drawings, **Daniel Culot**, from Volume Architecture, will create a carpet, in collaboration with the Danish company EGE, the world's first sustainable carpet manufacturer.

The BRAFA Art Talks will take place every day except Monday, January 30th, at the stand of the King Baudouin Foundation.

BRAFA 2023 Location

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Practical Information

BRAFA 2023 will take place at Brussels Expo at the Heysel in Halls 3 and 4 from January 29th until February 5th, 2023.

The fair is open every day from 11 am to 7 pm except on Thursday, February 2nd when it will be open until 10 pm.

A daily ticket is $25 \notin (\$24.3)$, while 2 entry ticket and a catalogue cost $60 \notin (\$58.5)$.

For more information, visit the fair's official webpage.

Featured image: BRAFA A

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FEATURED VIDEOS