



BRUSSELS

**A Fine Brew**

Belgium is home to some of the world's top dealers in everything from jewelry to Impressionist, tribal, and contemporary art. For the past few decades, many of them have been gathering annually for the **Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair (BRAFA)**, now in its 56th year. This smaller alternative to rival **TEFAF Maastricht** has attracted an increasing number of important international galleries since moving in 2004 from the Palais des Beaux-Arts to the bigger, brighter Tour and Taxis exhibition yard. The 2011 edition, which runs

from January 21 through 30, is slated to have around 130 exhibitors—10 more than last year—offering wares that run the gamut from rare antiquities to 20th-century design. There will also be 20 newcomers, among them a strong Paris contingent, including Asian-art specialists

**Christian Deydier** and **Jacques Barrère**, European-antiques powerhouse **Steinitz**, and Art Deco dealer **Alain Marcelpoil**.

Although clearly international, the fair is particularly known for domestically sourced material. "This year we are bringing the Belgian avant-garde," says Brussels dealer **Ronny van de Velde**. "And we have great expectations." His booth will feature such names as **Marcel Broodthaers**, **James Ensor**, and **Constant Permeke**. **Berko Fine Paintings**,



another Brussels entrant, is exhibiting the circa 1901 portrait *Gertrude the Beautiful* by the important Neo-Impressionist Belgian painter **Théo Van Rysselberghe**. Important Flemish objects will also be in abundance. "We do BRAFA because there is an impressive tradition and interest in early art in Belgium," says the London *antiquaire* **Joanna Booth**, who is showcasing a circa 1580 Flemish tapestry ornamented with lush vegetation. Also among the Low Country treasures is a 16th-century triptych showing the Adoration of the Magi by **Pieter Coeck van Aelst**, at the booth of Madrid's **Theotokopoulos**.

Eight dealers in African and Oceanic works—another category associated with Belgium—will be in attendance. "This kind of gathering of tribal art does not exist anywhere else in the world," says the Brussels dealer **Patrick Mestdagh**, who is highlighting a royal *bowai* wood club with ivory inlay from the kingdom of Tongaat. "The presence of tribal-art experts considered to be among the best in the field does create a synergy," agrees Montreal dealer **Jacques Germaine**,

who is bringing an 18th-century Edo Uhunmwun-ekhue ornamental mask from Benin and a Bamana Jonyeleni female figure from Mali.

Vintage jewelry is on the menu as well. **Chamarande**, of Brussels, is offering an exquisite Art Deco engraved 10.4-carat cabochon emerald surrounded by diamonds and set in platinum, and **Epoque Fine Jewels**, of Kortrijk, Belgium, is presenting a Lalique Art Nouveau Wood Anemones pendant signed by **René Lalique**. Modern-art aficionados can get their fix at the booths of Paris dealer **Patrice Trigano**, who will have the charming circa 1926 **Francis Picabia** watercolor *Don Juan Indochinois*; **Galerie Ludorff**, of Düsseldorf, offering **Max Ernst's** striking 1964 oil painting of a bright yellow sun; and Barcelona's **Manuel Barbié**, who is displaying an important abstract mural by **Fernand Léger** from 1926.



Clockwise from top left: Pieter Coeck van Aelst's 16th-century triptych of the Adoration of the Magi at Madrid's Theotokopoulos; Gertrude the Beautiful, ca. 1901, by Théo Van Rysselberghe at Berko Fine Paintings; Wood Anemones pendant by René Lalique at Epoque Fine Jewels; A green-lacquer Art Deco cabinet by Dominique at Galerie Marcilhac.

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**LAS VEGAS** Bonhams is holding a high-end vintage-motorcycle auction at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino on the Strip. The more than 140 lots include a circa 1894–95 **Hildebrand & Wolfmüller** bike estimated at \$130,000 to \$150,000.

**HONG KONG** On January 22 **Sotheby's** is offering 140 lots of fine wine, including top Burgundies and Bordeaux, in a sale of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** wine cellar. **NEW YORK** For his second collaboration with **Andrew Butterfield**, the Old Masters dealer **Fabrizio Moretti** has organized an exhibition, on view from January 22 through 29, around a newly discovered, highly expressive ivory by northern European Renaissance carver **Jacobus Agnesius**.

• Inaugurating an ongoing collaboration with **Galerie Canesso**, of Paris, from January 20 through February 4 **Didier Aaron** is presenting "The Master of the Blue Jeans," a show of Old Master paintings by such artists as **Cicco**, **Corot**, and **Bernardo Bellotti** demonstrating that

ALSO THIS MONTH

