

HAVANA'S YOUNG TALENTS | LOS ANGELES ART FAIRS IN FOCUS | BARN

# ART + AUCTION

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**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 Beautiful* by the important Neo-Impressionist **Van Rysselberghe**. Important Flemish art is also on display with abundance. "We do BRAFA because the interest in early art in Belgium," says **Tom Booth**, who is showcasing a circa 1580 painting with lush vegetation. Also among the 16th-century triptych showing the Adoration of the Kings is **Coeck van Aelst**, at the booth of **Madame de la Roche**.

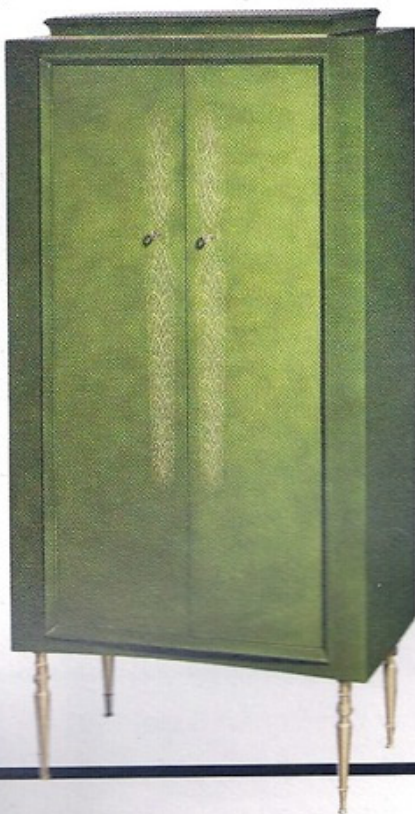
Eight dealers in African and Oceanic art, many associated with Belgium—will be in attendance. "This kind of gathering of tribal art does not exist anywhere else in the world," says the Brussels dealer **Patrick Mestdagh**, who is highlighting a royal *bowai* wood club with ivory inlay from the kingdom 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 Jewelry** 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 Ludorff*, of Düsseldorf, offering **Max Ernst** oil painting of a bright yellow sun; and **Ben** who is displaying an important abstract from 1926.



**LAS VEGAS** **Bonhams** is holding a high-end vintage-motorcycle auction at the Imperial Palace Strip. The more than 140 lots include a circa 1894–95 **Hildebrand & Wolfmüller** bike estimated at \$100,000. **HONG KONG** On January 22 **Sotheby's** is offering 140 lots of fine wine, including top Burgundy of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** wine cellar. **NEW YORK** For his second collaboration with **André** dealers dealer **Fabrizio Moretti** has organized an exhibition, on view from January 22 through 29, featuring highly expressive ivory by northern European Renaissance carver **Jacobus Agnesius**. • In collaboration with **Galerie Canesso**, of Paris, from January 20 through February 4 **Didier Aaron** is presenting "Blue Jeans," a show of Old Master paintings by such artists as **Giacomo Ceruti** and **Bernardo** denim existed in the 17th century. **LOS ANGELES** From January 8 through February 12 **Sho** new soft-focus, airbrushed paintings by **Brad Spence** exploring dream states and the unconscious.

