

Preview





Peter Sutton, Bruce Museum Director, Offers An Inside Look At TEFAF

Peter C. Sutton, the Susan E. Lynch executive director at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn., is one of three American members on the board of The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF).

Along with George Abrams, a world-renowned collector from Boston, and Michel Witmer, an art advisor, also members of the board, Sutton said the Americans are eager to promote the fair and ensure its success, since it is the preeminent venue for collectors.

“Many of the leading US collectors, museum directors and curators travel to Maastricht because it is the largest and most important art fair in the world,”

he said. “Dealers reserve their finest discoveries for the fair, so that collectors can view the best offerings that are currently on the market in a concentrated single venue. For the inveterate collector, it saves a great deal on shoe leather. The new audiences, as elsewhere in the art market, tend to come from China, Asia, Russia and to a certain extent the Middle East. But the American presence is still very strong. The preview opening is like a gathering of the

United Nations, only with a better fashion sense.”

In terms of what is distinctive and important about the fair, and how it has changed since he first became involved, Sutton replied, “The fair is exceptional because of its high standards of quality, ensured by the most rigorous vetting process, and its universality. No other fair has such

excellence in so many areas. I have been on the vetting committee for about 25 years and I learn more from my colleagues in those three days in March than all year long. The biggest and most appropriate change that has occurred during my tenure is the increase in the section devoted to Modern and contemporary art, the fastest growing sector of the art market.”

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Americans Abroad: US Dealers Head to Maastricht

By Laura Beach



Lounge chair
by Maria Pergay,
1970, stainless steel.
Demisch Danant, New York

M AASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS —

Thirty-five American galleries, some of them international entities with US showrooms, are traveling to the Netherlands to exhibit at The European Fine Art

Fair, called TEFAF, between March 13 and 22. Those who participate in what is often called the world's leading venue for historical art and design agree that it is worth the effort and expense. Not only do they mingle

Pair of Seaux à Verres Crénées, painter's mark for Dominique Joffroy, 1761, soft-paste porcelain. Michele Beiny, New York



with top scholars and collectors from around the world, they are likely to sell to other Americans, who are traveling to the 40-year-old fair in growing numbers.



“La Fortuna” by Andrea di Mariotto Cini, called “Andrea del Minga,” oil on panel, gold on ground. Grassi Studio, New York



A dessert set featuring 12 forks and 12 knives with gilded silver blades and tines; the handles fashioned from traditional Japanese kozuka, by Carl Fabergé, workmaster Julius Rappoport, St Petersburg, circa 1890. A La Vieille Russie, New York

“TEFAF continues to be a vital and important fair with a wide range of offerings coupled with a sophisticated clientele. Everyone who participates wants to bring his best, most exciting, most unusual piece. It’s the one place where you are certain that it will be appreciated,” said Mark Schaffer of A La Vieille Russie in New York.

"Blessing Christ Child," maker unknown, Rhineland (Cologne), early Sixteenth Century, linden wood with old polychromy. Blumka Gallery, New York

This year's event features specialists from 20 countries and four continents. Among five new exhibitors, New York dealers Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant specialize in 1950-70s French design.

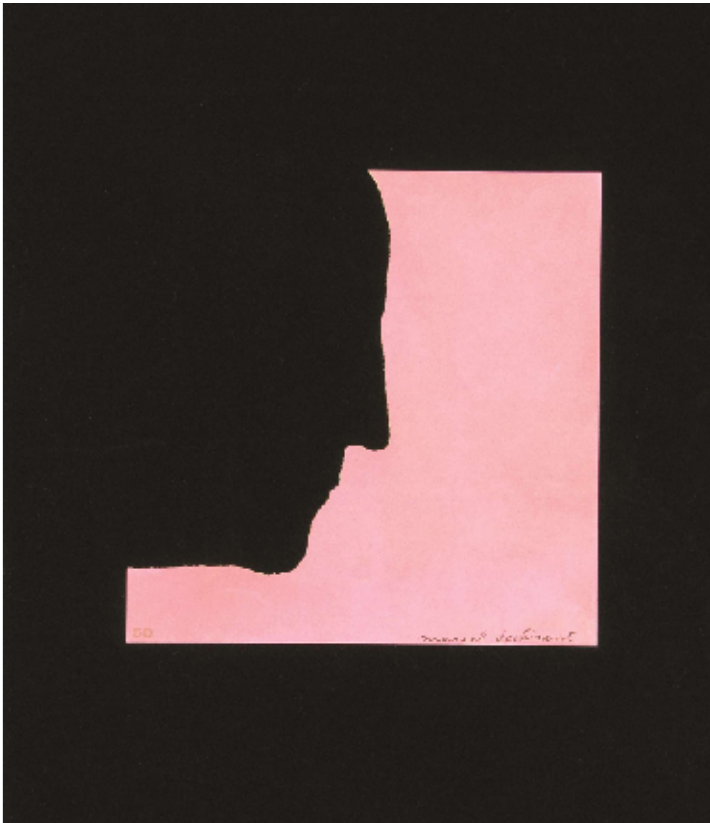


“Les Constructeurs” by Fernand Léger, 1950, gouache and pencil on paper mounted on cardboard by the artist. David Tunick, Inc, New York

“We are taking a fabulous Rembrandt landscape drypoint that has just come in and a very rare, complete set of Goya ‘Disasters of War’ in the first edition,” said New York dealer David Tunick.

Tapped for the fair’s Showcase section, PYO Gallery of Los Angeles is bringing Tansaekhwa, or works from the Korean Monochrome Painting movement.

The 274-dealer show is organized into seven major specialties. The biggest divisions are Antiques followed by Paintings and Modern.



"Eau & Gaz a Tous les Etages" by Marcel Duchamp (1887–1968), accompanied by a self-portrait of Duchamp signed "Marcel Dechiravit" with a hand colored engraving of "Grand Verre," an original pochoir frontispiece, and a ready-made *Eau et Gaz a tous les Etages* signed by Duchamp. Ursus Books, New York

The newest categories are Design, added in 2009, and Paper, a 2010 innovation.

“Since we will be downstairs between the Old Masters and Modern dealers, everything we are taking is by an artist. No texts or atlases,” explained New York dealer Peter Kraus. Ursus Books’ offerings will range from a Dürer Passion and a Canaletto suite to works by Duchamp, Ernst and Magritte and a 2011 artist’s book by Tauba Auerbach.



“Le Potager au Printemps” by Adrien Louis Demont, signed, inscribed and dated 1885, oil on canvas. Lawrence Steigrad Fine Arts, New York

“American museums are going to TEFAF en masse. They know

TEFAF has the best and they are confident that everything is as represented. This is the most rigorously vetted fair in the world,” said Larry Steigrad of Lawrence Steigrad Fine Arts.

“We’ve been doing TEFAF for more than 20 years. We see everyone — the major museums of the world, national museums and libraries and small museums. One thinks of

“Tulips and Other Flowers in A Mounted Moss Agate Vase” by Gaspar van den Hoecke (circa 1585–1641/8), oil on panel. Haboldt/Pictura, Paris, New York and Amsterdam



Maastricht for Old Master pictures but it is great for works on paper, too,” said Keegan Goepfert of Les Enluminures in New York. The firm is offering a previously unpublished, illuminated Protestant prayer book containing 14 circa 1507–12 Albrecht Durer engravings of the Passion.

Protestant prayer book, illuminated manuscript on paper and parchment with circa 1507–12 engravings by Albrecht Dürer, plus additions by other artists, possibly Nuremberg, book assembled and amended between the 1580s and circa 1615. Les Enluminures, Paris, New York and Chicago



“Carbon Dating Systems Versus Scratchproof Tape” by Jean-Michel Basquiat, signed, dated and inscribed 1982, acrylic and oil stick on canvas mounted on wood supports with twine. Van de Weghe Fine Art, New York



Michel Witmer, a TEFAF board member and its US Ambassador, works to bring American museum staff and collecting circles to the fair. “There is definitely a sense of partnership with TEFAF that appeals to American museums,” said the New York resident.

If TEFAF is a new discovery for many Americans, it is an old favorite for Europeans, said Larry Steigrad. “Average Europeans from all walks of life visit TEFAF. They make an outing of it with their families and may buy something they’ve saved for all year.” About 75,000 visitors are expected this year.

The European Fine Art Fair is staged at the Maastricht Exhibition & Congress Centre.

Suite of George II candlesticks and candelabra by John Caffé, London, 1755–56, silver. S.J. Shrubsole, New York

For more information,
www.tefaf.com.



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