

Tefaf's silver jubilee

PART 2: Since it was founded 25 years ago, Tefaf has evolved and become more and more inclusive and international, welcoming such new specialties as modern and contemporary art, and 20th-century design

TEFAF | Contemporary art and design

A range of works broad and deep, and ever more current

Konrad Bernheimer calls it "the miracle of Maastricht." The owner of Bernheimer Fine Old Masters in Munich and Colnaghi in London is referring to the transformation of the small, localized Pictura Fine Art Fair, founded in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in 1975, into one of the world's most highly respected art fairs, over nine times the size of the original.

This year, the fair is celebrating the silver jubilee of its rebirth in 1988 as Tefaf (The European Fine Art Fair) Maastricht after Pictura merged with another fair, De Antiquairs International, and moved into its current home, the Maastricht Exposition and Congress Center.

As the fair expanded, it grew more eclectic as new specialties were added. Today, Tefaf covers everything from archaeological treasures thousands of years old to the latest work by the hottest current artists, and incorporates every art form, from painting, sculpture and works on paper to installations and modern design.

HOMAGE | Alexander Calder

First BMW Art Car takes a spin

Why is a race car on display at an art and antique fair? Because it is not just any car: it is the BMW Art Car decorated in 1975 by Alexander Calder, only one year before the renowned artist's death. The 3.0 CSL, driven by the French racing driver and auctioneer Hervé Poulain in the Le Mans 24 Hours race, was painted with Calder's jazzy abstract design in bright red, yellow, blue and white. This was the first in a series of BMW Art Cars decorated by art-world stars like David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons.

In homage to Calder, a number of exhibitors at Tefaf will be showing works by the artist famous for his colorful mobiles and stabiles. Among them are Gana Art, with "Saw Plant," a 1964 metal sculpture, and Hammer Galleries, with a 1974 mobile, "Red, Blue, Black Cascade."

Contemporary and modern art represent a full quarter of the fair this year, with works by big-name contemporary artists like Damien Hirst and Anish Kapoor, as well as beloved modern artists like Henry Moore, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko.

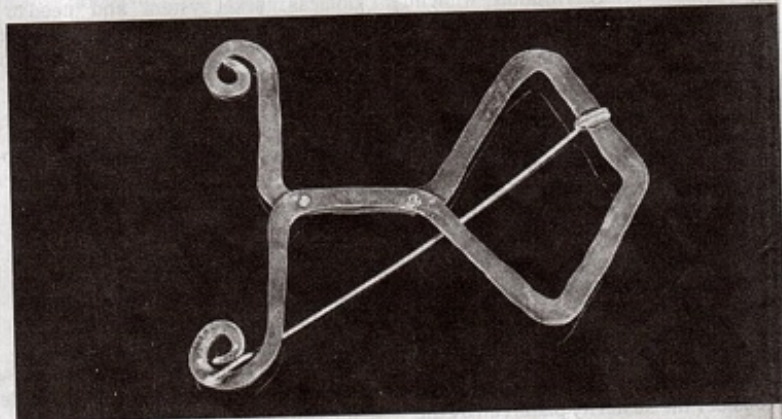
Visitors will get a taste of luminous contemporary art as soon as they walk through the doors of the fair, where they will be dazzled by a light sculpture designed by Leo Villareal, an American artist who pioneered the use of LEDs and computer-driven images to create spectacular light installations. This work, which Ben Janssens, a Tefaf exhibitor and chairman of its executive committee, describes as "indoor fireworks," is available for sale.

Gerhard Richter, who has just had a retrospective at the Tate Modern in London, will be represented at Tefaf. Richter has always gone his own way, working in both abstract and figurative styles and with a variety of media. Van de Weghe Fine Art is showing a colorful, 200 centimeter by 180 centimeter (79 inch by 71 inch) abstract, which is signed,

dated and numbered "882-12 Richter 2004." Schönewald Fine Arts is bringing Richter's "Kreuz" ("Cross"), an all-white work made of tool steel, part of an edition of 80 copies. Providing a nice contrast to Richter's stark white piece, Schönewald will also be showing "Wald mit Kreuz," a 1964 charcoal drawing of an imposing black cross in a forest by Richter's contemporary Georg Baselitz.

As one of the rare new exhibitors at Tefaf, Tornabuoni Art has made a special effort to create "an event within the event," says the owner, Michele Casamonti, with a one-man show of paintings by Lucio Fontana. It took Casamonti a year and a half to gather a group of 30 works that represent all five cycles of the most important period of Fontana's career, beginning in 1950, when he made the first of his famous "spatial concept" pierced monochrome paintings. From then on, all his paintings bore the "Concetto Spaziale" title.

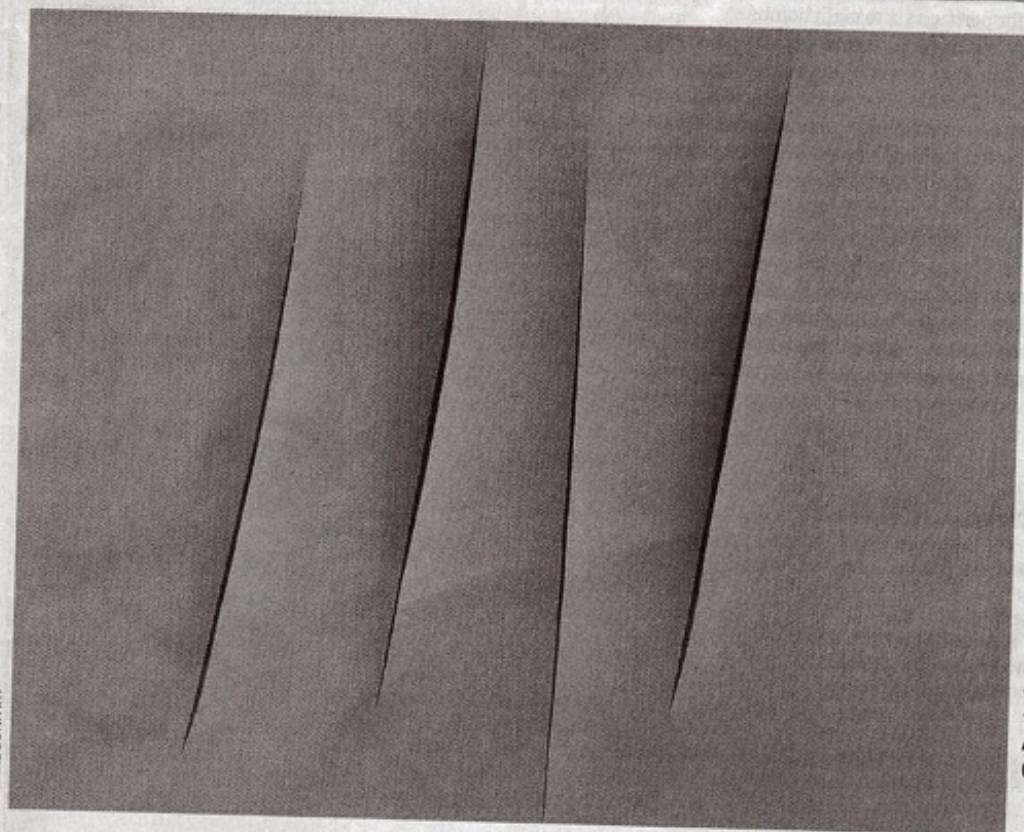
"Fish and Sky" (1967), a three-dimensional work by one of the kings of Pop Art, Roy Lichtenstein, will be on show at the William



A silver brooch made by Alexander Calder for Hester Diamond, the wife of Harold Diamond, one of his dealers.

London-based Didier Antiques has a unique piece with an interesting back story. The gallery, one of the younger ones being featured on a one-time basis in the Showcase section of the fair, specializes in jewelry designed by postwar artists and will present a silver brooch designed by Calder for Hester Diamond, the wife of Harold

Diamond, one of his art dealers, in the late 1960s, after "a difficult meeting between the artist and his dealer," says Martine Haspeslagh of Didier Antiques. Calder hammered out the brooch, which combines the initial "H" with a diamond shape, from a single piece of silver wire while the couple looked on. ■



Tornabuoni Art, a new exhibitor at Tefaf, is showing 30 works by Lucio Fontana dating from 1950 to 1968, including "Concetto Spaziale, Attese" from 1966 (detail at right).

Weston Gallery stand. The image, one of 25 proofs from an edition of 200, combines a black-and-white photo made by the artist with a Vari-Vue stereographic image of swimming fish, the two parts joined together by a wavy band of dots that immediately conjures up his famed comic-strip paintings.

Visitors to Tefaf may do a double take when they see a sloppily dressed woman laden with shopping bags who looks more than a little out of place amid the elegant crowd at the fair. If they stare long enough,

however, they will see that she isn't moving, because she is not a person but a hyperrealist sculpture by Duane Hanson, "Young Shopper" (1973), being shown on the stand of Van de Weghe Fine Art.

Twentieth-century design has been part of Tefaf since 2009. This year, nine galleries will be presenting examples of everything from Viennese Jugendstil to Scandinavian styles. An eye-catching piece to be shown by Sebastian + Barquet is the sleek "Quarter Lounge," one of a series of 10 sculptural

chaises longues made of welded quarters and stainless steel designed in 2011 by Johnny Swing, known for going against the grain in his choice of materials (a chair made of glass jars, for example).

Galerie Eric Philippe will feature a one-of-a-kind oak table with a slate top designed by Børge Mogensen, who was one of the leading lights of Danish design. It was made by the cabinetmaker Erhard Rasmussen in 1951, when it was shown at the Copenhagen Cabinetmakers' Guild Exhibition. ■

DIGITAL ART | Bosschaert video

An Old Master and new technology

A fascinating project by Rob and Nick Carter presented by The Fine Art Society of London at Tefaf brings together an Old Master and contemporary art — just as the fair itself does.

The artists, a married couple best known for their light paintings, have made a three-hour animated film of the famed painting, "Bouquet in an Arched Window" (c. 1618) by Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder (1573-1621), part of the collection of the Mauritshuis in The Hague.

The same size as the original painting (64 centimeters by 46 centimeters, or about 25 inches by 18 inches), the film will bring to life this stunning rendering of a bouquet of flowers set in a trompe-l'œil arch with a landscape visible in the background. The project

took two years and involved thousands of hours of digital rendering.

The idea is that from a distance of 20 to 30 feet (about six to nine meters), the film, hung in a traditional frame, will appear to be the painting itself, but as viewers approach, they will see that everything in it is on the move, with the insects and butterflies flapping their wings, the caterpillars and snails creeping and crawling, the flowers opening and closing, and the dewdrops dripping.

While the original painting will not be on display at the fair, visitors can have a look at a close relative, another of the six paintings Bosschaert did of a bouquet in an arched window, "A Vase of Flowers in a Window with a Distant Landscape Beyond," on the stand of Johnny Van Haeften of London. ■

The European Fine Art Fair (Tefaf) Maastricht 2012

- **Where:** Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Center (MECC), Forum 100, Maastricht, the Netherlands
- **Exhibitors:** 265 leading art and antiques dealers from 19 countries
- **When:** March 16-25, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Sunday, March 25, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- **Admission:** €55 per adult, including catalog; €90 for two adults, including one catalog; €110 for a season ticket, including one catalog; €20 for children 12-18, catalog not included
- **Free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult**
- **Web site:** www.tefaf.com

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