

PREVIEW
INTERNATIONAL FAIRS



AROUND THE GALLERIES

It's all eyes on Brussels in coming weeks as BRUNEAF, BAAF and AAB return to the Place du Grand Sablon. In Paris, Carré Rive Gauche takes over the Left Bank while the International Antiques Fair arrives in Hong Kong. **Imelda Barnard**

Now in its third year, **Art15** returns to Kensington's Olympia from 21–23 May, with a new fair director in the form of Kate Bryan, previously head of contemporary art at the Fine Art Society. With a strong focus on international art, some 150 galleries from 40 countries are represented – more than half of the dealers have spaces outside Europe – and the work on show encompasses both modern and contemporary (www.artfairslondon.com).

Many of the galleries are offering in-depth solo presentations – London's Cob Gallery presents Stella Vine; Hong Kong's 10 Chancery Lane mounts a Huang Rui show – and this curatorial rigour is reflected more widely in the fair's commissioning of two major projects. The show 'Freedom Audit', curated by Kathleen Soriano, former director of exhibitions at the Royal Academy, questions ideas of freedom in light of current world events, while a new digital commission headed by Valentina Fois, invites two artists – Émilie Gervais and Sara Ludy – to 'perform' a digital artwork live at the fair.

1 Drunken Silenus mask
1st century BC
Hellenistic
Bronze, ht 20.2cm
The Merrin Gallery at BAAF
(10–14 June)



In addition to its commitment to showing work from the burgeoning Asian market – this year, nine Taiwanese galleries are participating – the fair also supports the up-and-coming. Jonathan Watkins, director of Birmingham's Ikon Gallery, is the curatorial adviser for the Emerge section, which considers the notion of 'emerging' in broad terms – from markets, to artists, to galleries, and features among the latter Madrid-based Sabrina Amrani and London's Bosse & Baum. The London First section, meanwhile, provides young galleries with a strong platform in the capital. The fair is accompanied by a wide-ranging series of talks, alongside a section dedicated to non-profit institutions.

Also in London, don't miss the 'Watch Art Pate Philippe Grand Exhibition' from 27 May–7 June at the **Saatchi Gallery** (www.patek.com). The event celebrates the luxury Swiss watch manufacturer's illustrious history and offers the chance to view more than 400 of its finest timepieces. Divided into 15 themed sections, the display includes a special area showcasing the collection designed to commemorate the firm's 175th anniversary.

In Europe, Brussels plays host to three major fairs, which sees over 100 dealers descend on the Place du Grand Sablon (10–14 June). The **Brussels Non European Art Fair** (BRUNEAF; www.bruneaf.com), the oldest of the fairs, celebrates its 25th year and brings together over 50 international dealers specialising in primitive art. Commemorating this jubilee edition are also a series of events: the 'found@bruneaf' exhibition pays tribute to the collectors who have supported the fair through a presentation of the best pieces sold over the years, while the Sindika Dokolo Foundation is guest of honour thanks to its championing of contemporary African art. A conference on Tshokwe art is also scheduled. Among the highlights on the stands are a powerful Songye wood figure from the Democratic Republic of Congo courtesy of Didier Claes; a ritual Ngbaka sceptre dating from the late 19th or early 20th century at Bernard de Grunne; and, dated to the same period, a set of three short Fang swords at Patrick & Ondine Mestdagh.

At the 13th edition of the **Brussels Ancient Art Fair** (BAAF; www.baaf.be) 15 international exhibitors offer a range of classical, Egyptian and Near-Eastern antiquities. Among the exquisite works here, Belgium-based Harmakhis brings an Egyptian limestone

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2 *Daigou* in the shape of a rhinoceros
 Chinese, Warring States period (481–221 BC)
 Bronze, gold, silver and malachite, 24×8.5cm
 Gisèle Croës at AAB (10–14 June)

3 *The Abduction of Europa*
 c. 1745
 Francesco Fontebasso (1707–69)
 Oil on canvas, 39×63cm
 Franck Baulme Fine Arts at Carré Rive Gauche (2–7 June)



bas-relief depicting Queen Hatshepsut, dating to the 18th Dynasty. For Greek art, head to Galerie Tarantino, which offers a Geometric style oinochoe from the late 8th century BC, or to the Merrin Gallery, which displays a wonderful Hellenistic bronze mask of Silenus, loyal companion to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine (Fig. 1).

Asian Art in Brussels (AAB; www.asianartinbrussels.com) is only in its third year but has already established itself as one of the world's leading Asian art fairs. Featuring 20 international dealers, including three newcomers, on display is an array of works from India, China, Japan and Southeast Asia. There's also the third instalment of ArtConnoisseurs, a series of conferences organised in conjunction with BAAF and held at the Cinquantenaire Museum. A gilt-copper sculpture of a seated Buddha, dated to the 14th century, is on

offer at Jacques How Choong, whilst Gisèle Croës presents an exquisite, rhinoceros-shaped *daigou* or garment hook (Warring States period; Fig. 2).

In early June **Carré Rive Gauche** returns to Paris's Left Bank (2–7 June; www.carrerivegauche.com), this time with the theme 'Metamorphoses'. The event sees galleries in the area present their best pieces, with many staging special exhibitions. Clearly linked to the theme, Franck Baulme Fine Arts presents Francesco Fontebasso's *The Abduction of Europa* (Fig. 3), an episode described in Ovid. Also worth a look is a display from Álvaro Roquette & Pedro Aguiar Branco, specialists in Indo-Portuguese colonial furniture.

Further afield is the **International Antiques Fair** (30 May–1 June; www.iaf.com.hk), running at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre during Asia Week Hong Kong (27 May–11 June; www.asiaweekhk.com). Now in its eighth edition, the fair attracts antiques specialists from across Asia, Europe and the US. Hong Kong-based dealer Orientique brings a rare pair of Qing cloisonné and champlevé enamel elephants from the Qianlong period (1736–95), while another highlight can be seen on the stand of Paris-based Christian Deydier, who offers a ritual bronze vessel from the Eastern Zhou dynasty. **A**



Calendar

Art15

Olympia, London
 21–23 May
www.artfairslondon.com

Watch Art Patek Philippe Grand Exhibition

Saatchi Gallery, London
 27 May–7 June
www.patek.com

International Antiques Fair

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
 30 May–1 June
www.iaf.com.hk

Carré Rive Gauche

Various venues around the 7th arrondissement, Paris
 2–7 June
www.carrerivegauche.com

Asian Art in Brussels

Place du Grand Sablon, Brussels
 10–14 June
www.asianartinbrussels.com

Brussels Ancient Art Fair

Place du Grand Sablon, Brussels
 10–14 June
www.baaf.be

Brussels Non European Art Fair

Place du Grand Sablon, Brussels
 10–14 June
www.bruneaf.com