

CULTURE

TEFAF TIME

The annual fair takes over Maastricht once again, as dealers offer Old Masters and contemporary works alike

EVERY MARCH, ART-WORLD INSIDERS accustomed to the frenetic party feel of Frieze London and Art Basel Miami Beach descend on the small Dutch city of Maastricht for The European Fine Art Fair. Even the organizers admit that getting to Tefaf, which opens today and runs through March 23, can be a test of motivation. Unless they travel by private jet, visitors arriving from Amsterdam or Brussels can expect at least two train changes. Dining venues are scarce. Yet with more than 35,000 works on offer—strictly vetted by 175 experts—and 70,000 visitors, it is Europe's largest fair by number of works and boasts the world's highest attendance for a fair not solely focused on contemporary art. Since its 1975 launch as a meeting point for Old Master specialists, Tefaf has expanded to include design, jewelry, modern art and works on paper while remaining the one fair where high-priced Old Masters continue to sell well. "Tefaf is the kind of fair where people can see the value in a Rembrandt only slightly bigger than a postage stamp," says Manhattan-based dealer David Tunick, who is selling a 6.5-centimeter by 6.1-centimeter Rembrandt self-portrait circa 1629 for €162,000. Here, our highlights from Tefaf's top five sections. —Mary M. Lane

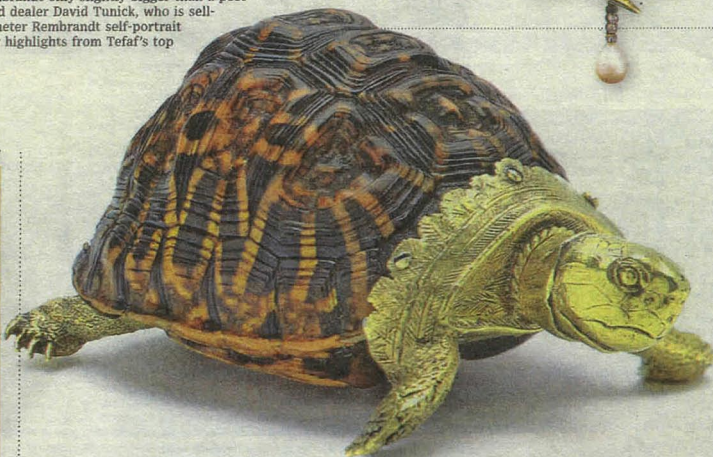


JEWELRY CHESTNUT BROOCH ▲
Munich-based jewelers Hemmerle create fanciful jewelry often modeled after food or foliage. Here, a chestnut brooch in diamonds, obsidian, gold, silver and bronze for around €50,000.

SWAN PENDANT ▲
This gold and enamel swan pendant encrusted with rubies, diamonds and pearls from 1900 is being sold by Brussels-based dealer Francis Janssens van der Maelen as part of a collection of 13 Art Deco pieces for €1.9 million.

DESIGN TORTOISE FLASK ▲
Every year, Tefaf visitors drink around 15,000 flutes of champagne, but if hard liquor's more your thing, this gold and tortoiseshell flask with screw-on head, circa 1620, is on offer for €120,000 from Munich's Kunstkammer Georg Laue.

BRASS TABLE ▼
Brussels-based dealer Yves Macaux is presenting this gleaming brass and marble table by Belgian Art Nouveau designer Gustave Serrurier-Bovy for €75,000.



MODERN JAPANESE STATUE ▲
Tefaf created a contemporary section in 2005, and emerging artists are gaining traction at the fair. London-based dealer Adrian Sisson is offering a group of silver-glazed porcelain statues by Japanese artist Takahiro Kondo, including this 81cm-high piece, "Reduction," for around €65,000.



MATISSE CUTOUTS ▼
Ahead of a major spring show of Henri Matisse paper cutouts at Tate Modern that will travel to MoMA, Manhattan dealer David Tunick is offering "Jazz," Matisse's 1947 book of cutouts with hand-tooled binding for €500,000. Around 250 copies were made but only around 20 remain intact.



WORKS ON PAPER GOYO PRINT ▲
Launched in 2010, Tefaf's paper section thrives on the fair's reputation for strict vetting. Dealers say they meet most new clients here and strive to bring rare pieces to the only non-specialist fair at which most of them exhibit. Paris's Galerie Tanakaya is selling "Young Woman in a Summer Kimono," a rare print by Hashiguchi Goyo from 1920, for around €35,000.

REMBRANDT IN MINIATURE ▼
Frankfurt-based dealer Helmut Rumbler is offering two pricey but Lilliputian works by Rembrandt: a delicate 1643 20cm by 28cm landscape for €900,000 and this €42,000 12cm by 12cm self-portrait from 1631.



OLD MASTERS AND IMPRESSIONIST ERA BRUEGHEL PEASANTS ▲
London-based Old Master dealer Johnny Van Haefren updated his Tefaf stand this year with edgy, modern furniture. But his blue-chip artwork remains traditional, epitomized by "Spring" circa 1625, a €3.4 million oil on panel by Pieter Bruegel the Younger.



VAN GOGH WINDMILL ▲
This \$20 million Vincent van Gogh, from New York- and London-based Dickinson gallery, is one of the fair's most expensive works. Though windmills became a classic theme for Van Gogh, he painted "Moulin de la Galette" in April 1887, before developing his signature late-period style.