



Finest of art

In late June the European Fine Art Fair will make its comeback, in the university town of Maastricht in the Netherlands. We take a glimpse at the masterpieces on show

The European Fine Art Foundation has spent the last two years displaying their incredible art exhibitions digitally through the Covid-19 pandemic. While they showcased over 700 pieces in September, highlighted by 16 feature works from distinguished art dealers around the globe, it is the upcoming June exhibition in Maastricht that is causing

Above: Visitors admire the work of Luis Alegria Lda at TEFAF 2020 in Maastricht; the last time the event was held in person, with 2021 going online

excitement. With a return to conventional in-person exhibits, TEFAF is hoping to stun at this year's event.

While the upcoming exhibit is much anticipated, it is still a few months away, scheduled to take place from June 25 through 30. The exhibitors and feature pieces have yet to be determined, but what can be expected is a stunning and diverse selection of art from across all disciplines, just as the past years' exhibits have demonstrated.

From September 9 through 13 2021, TEFAF exhibited their Maastricht show online to great

success. Some of the incredible pieces displayed included a pearl, diamond and platinum necklace by Cartier, a gorgeous oak commode by Bernar III Van Risen Burgh, and countless incredible paintings by notable artists such as Lucio Fontana, Keith Haring and Giovanni Battista Caracciolo. Sculptures and other art by David Hammond were also included in the exhibit, as well as a marble statue from as far back as the 1st Century.

The feature pieces of the exhibit were curated by six professionals across different industries. These were Pierre

Yovanovitch, interior designer; Erwin Wurm, artist; Courtney J Martin, Yale Center for British Art director; Faye Toogood, designer; Amin Jaffer, curator; and Guillaume Kientz, director for Hispanic Society of America. Editorial features were also included in the exhibit, on art dealer and collector Axel Vervoordt, artist Hitomi Hosono and jeweller Otto Jakob, as well as others.

In the sculpture and statue area, there were many stunning pieces contributed to the exhibition last year, across a variety of disciplines. Christophe de Quenetain's piece Crab spent part of its life as an Italian Renaissance inkstand and was created around the 16th Century and is worth a staggering €200,000. De Quenetain also exhibited two other crab sculptures at the exhibit. The incredible Right Wing of a Diptych - Scenes of the Passion of Christ is the sister to a left ▶



wing that has been housed at the Louvre Museum since the 19th Century. The €1.8 million sculpture Aphrodite, also called Venus Genitrix was presented at the exhibit by Galerie Chenel and is a stunning work of art that needs to be seen to be believed.

When it comes to jewellery, TEFAF doesn't play around, given the gorgeous collection of pieces from last year's exhibit. With pieces like the 17.04 carat sapphire ring by Rene Boivin, titled Cocktail Ring, it's hard to find any flaw in the bling offered to viewers in last year's show. Valued at US\$500,000, the Cartier natural pearl and diamond necklace is a showstopper.

While paintings may be the traditional style of art most expect to see in museums and exhibits, that does not diminish from the incredible collection of oil paintings that were on display during the

Above: In 2020, intersections of the main aisles had famous place names such as Trafalgar Square and Place de la Concorde Right: The entrance

2021 online show. The duo of Christoffel Pierson paintings, Pair of Still Lifes with Falconry Instruments, are a stunning display of how real some art may look, even through a screen. Giovanni Battista Caracciolo, known in the art world as Battistello, was also showcased in the exhibit, with his work Holy Family with St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. A more modern and avant-garde painting, Untitled (Knokke #3) by Keith Haring is a striking and strange example of absurdist art at its best. Though Lucio Fontana's Attesa is seemingly simple, it is also one of the artist's most dynamic and gripping pieces.

With over 700 exhibitions in their online show, it's impossible to talk about them all, which is why attending the TEFAF exhibit is a must. After reviewing last year's exhibition and looking forward to an in-person show this year, the Maastricht TEFAF exhibit promises to be breathtaking and awe-inspiring. It will certainly be an exhibit not to miss.

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