ANTICA NAMUR 2017 | FINE ART FAIR

Press release

Antica Namur 2017 - 41st edition
11 to 19 November 2017

A date not to be missed by art enthusiasts and a gauge of the European market.

In the forty years it has been in existence, Antica Namur has managed, through its strategic management, to become one of the greatest exhibitions in Europe. Its impact and reputation are becoming clearer and clearer year on year. Thus, an increasing number of foreign gallery owners want to be there. And all European players (especially in France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) consider its position in the calendar.

So the 41st edition of Antica Namur is an event in more ways than one. Firstly because it is the autumn's very first gathering between art lovers and collectors. “The date of the exhibition was chosen carefully, notes Luc Darte, Exhibition Manager. In Belgium, the Indian summer lasts until October and gives everyone the urge to go outdoors. However, November sends everyone home. The time has come to take a closer look at your interior, and improve and complete the decoration. Collectors, decorators and other professionals will do anything they can to be there.”

Blend of the ancient and modern

So Antica Namur remains the flagship event by virtue of its position in the calendar, but also by virtue of its size: no fewer than **125 Belgian and foreign antique dealers** (more and more of them French) exhibit their latest acquisitions and finds. All fields of decorative arts and fine arts are celebrated: old furnishings, sculptures and paintings, jewellery, silverware, primitive art, vintage items and curiosities. Antiques are synonymous with modernity, and "modern", contemporary art and design is ever present at Antica Namur, as it continues to make its mark. That said, "antiques" have not uttered their last word. We observe that there is an endless desire for tradition amongst enthusiasts. "Antica Namur is one of those exhibitions at which all eras and all registers are represented, with ever-improving

quality of exhibitors", continues Luc Darte. You could define his mood as "evolved classical tradition", i.e. tradition enhanced and refreshed with modern and contemporary items and accents. "People love it!"

Grand houses

Just as it has in the past, the exhibition will host some highly significant players in the market, who frequent prestigious international exhibitions. This is especially the case with the Galerie **Florence de Voldère**, often seen at the Tefaf in Maastricht and even the Biennale des Antiquaires. Amongst other "locomotives" are the **Couvent des Ursulines de Liège**, Restoration era furniture specialist (Charles X), **Jan Müller** and his collection of works from the XVth century to the present day, **Sébastien Tercellin de Joigny**, who specialises in XVIIIth-century table-laying and goldsmithing and **Henri Vanhoenacker**, an expert in the exceptional works presented at the Universal Exhibitions and the **Maison Costermans**, which specialises in XVIIIth-century furniture and items. Note also the presence of the Galeries **Raf van Severen**, **Ming-K'i** and even the famous international antiques **Paul de Grande**, **Francis Janssens van der Maelen** and the silversmithing specialist **Bernard de Leye**.

Other big names are due to come to Namur for the first time. Thus, you can explore the Parisian Galerie **Sismann**, which specialises in European sculpture from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Classical and Baroque periods until the XVIIIth century. It is the only space in France which deals in this highly specialist area. So calling all enthusiasts! The Swiss Galerie **Papon**, renowned for its refined XVIIIth-century furnishings, will also be making its debut at Namur. Amongst Belgian newcomers, we note the Galerie **Nathan Uzal**, which specialises in XVIth- to XIXth-century decorative arts, XIVth- to XIXth-century sculptures and musical instruments.

Some great cultural gatherings

The offer from the 125 galleries and antiques will be complemented by ancillary activities related to the desire to explore and learn. The organisers of Antica Namur have chosen to give it the image of a cultural place as it is the site of several **local museums**. In the past, a partnership with the **Town of Namur** has enabled the setting up of a 60 m² space where museums used to present displays decorated with works illustrating the purpose of the exhibition. An original opportunity to (re)discover some splendid public art collections. The 2017 edition will be taking the partnership further. A **80 m²** stand will give museums the opportunity to express themselves using some spectacular scenery. It has been possible to pursue the project with the support of the **Fondation Roi Baudouin** and especially the Fonds Pierre François Tilmon. Several exceptional pieces (paintings, curiosities, items) belonging to several local museums will be exhibited. No doubt the pièce de résistance will be the painting **"Siège de la citadelle de Dinant", by Adam Frans van der Meulen** (1632-1690), a Flemish Baroque artist originally from Brussels.

Listen and debate

Antica Namur is not just about exhibiting. It is also about teaching! In other words, it is no longer just about looking around and buying: it is about finding out, learning and understanding. This thirst for knowledge has motivated the organisers to reconduct the cycle of conferences which every year, turn out to be a great success.

SUNDAY 12 NOV 3 P.M. (FR)
"Back from the death"-taxidermy: craftsmanship-an art-a passion by Henri Vanhoenacker, a specialist in XIXth-century decorative arts (Galerie Vanhoenacker)
MONDAY 13 NOV 3 P.M. (FR)
The status of the Art Market by Hubert d'Ursel, Head of Art Advisory (Banque Degroof Petercam)
TUESDAY 14 NOV 3 P.M. (FR)
Gold- and silversmithing from the earth: ceremonial Majolica, princely Renaissance dressers by Laurence Lenne, specialist in china, porcelain and ceramics (Galerie Art & Patrimoine)
THURSDAY 16 NOV 3 P.M. (FR)
How would you define the value of objets d'art? How should you buy art?
By Hubert d'Ursel, Head of Art Advisory (Banque Degroof Petercam)

Placed under the heading eclecticism

Antica Namur's success is also down to its geographical location, right in the heart of the European chessboard. Its reputation now goes beyond frontiers and brings together the public from all across Belgium, but also France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The exhibition attracts 30,000 visitors. Going beyond the circle of clear enthusiasts, Antica Namur has diversified hugely and also attracts the wider public. It has something for everyone. Eclecticism and diversity are a "manufacturer's brand name". Accordingly, you can find original items priced at no more than a few hundred Euros, but real collectors will also find exceptional items there priced at a few thousand Euros. This diversity and this opening up have made their mark and produced some extraordinary dynamics. The managers are absolutely keen to preserve it.

Authentic, quality goods

Antica Namur's reputation is improving year on year and gives a good indication as to the interest in the market for antiques and collectibles. This impact attracts many leading lights in period art and thus demands a highly specialist selection. It is the task of the selection committee which meets four months before the start of the exhibition to impart their views. An experts' day is held the day before the exhibition. The organisation is shouldered by a committee of about 25 experts who visit all stands to ensure quality. Several experts will also be present throughout the exhibition and will be available to visitors. "Antica Namur is a serious exhibition, yet it is not pretentious", points out Luc Darte.

Key moments during Antica Namur 2017

Dates and times
11 to 19 November 2017.
2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at weekends.
Late opening Friday 17 November until 10 p.m.
Preview by invitation from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday 9 November.
Vernissage by invitation from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday 10 November.
Ladies Day - free entry to women: 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday 14 November. Conference open at 3 p.m.
Press conference 2:30 p.m. Thursday 9 November.

Venue
Namur expo - 2, avenue Sergent Vrithoff BE-5000 Namur

Number of exhibitors
125

Number of experts
25 for vetting, 3 throughout the exhibition

Price
Entry at the door: €20 - Visitors' guide free.
Online tickets: €15
VIP ticket (2 people): €60

Free entry to children and those under 18
No pets
The organisation does not have a crèche

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