



ANTICA NAMUR 2021

PRESS RELEASE

ANTICA NAMUR, BIGGEST FINE ART FAIR IN BELGIUM, IN A POST-LOCK DOWN VERSION

NOVEMBER 13th > 21st, 2021

*'The world is changing, Antica Namur is renewing itself
by listening to the art market'*

Although we frequently talk about the impact of the crisis on the night scene or stage arts, we must not forget the impact on art fairs. For more than a year and a half, no fairs have opened their doors in Belgium.

However, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, because the organisers of Antica Namur are enthusiastically announcing the 2021 edition of the fair, from 13 to 21 November at Namur Expo. Antica Namur is therefore the first art and antiques fair to take place in Belgium since 2020. All eyes will be riveted on the Namur fair because this year – more than others – it will serve as a test for the art market.

In this context, this 44th edition of Antica Namur will be an occasion for competition, exchange and discovery with meetings and a renewed social life back in force.

After long months of preparation, the organisers are addressing the changes to be envisaged for a sector that has been out of action for a long time, and delivering their plans for the success of their fair.

THE ASSETS OF ANTICA NAMUR 'POST-LOCKDOWN' VERSION

INTERVIEW WITH DIANE KERVYN, FAIR DIRECTOR

What role does Antica Namur play as a pioneering post-lockdown fair?

First of all, we're delighted to be the first Belgian fair to be able to open our doors after this long period of shutdown. Antica Namur has played the role of barometer for a long time. It opens the fair season and, this year again, it will revitalise and give new momentum to gallery owners and antique dealers. Our exhibitors are back in force with great hopes and original pieces selected carefully during the last 15 months. Our visitors may therefore benefit from exceptional quality of choice throughout the 10 days of the fair. After a long period of waiting, they can come together in a friendly setting and atmosphere that's conducive to interaction and surprises.

What place is there for fairs in a changing world?

We can see that certain changes have taken place and created a new landscape. Many exhibitors have innovated to dynamise sales and exchanges... The use of digital marketplaces and social networks as methods of communication and sales is booming. At the same time, art-related Instagram and Facebook accounts are multiplying and bearing witness to the growing interest of young art lovers. Lockdown has encouraged cocooning, the home has regained a central role and interest in discovery and the pleasure of surrounding oneself with works of art have been reaffirmed.

In this context, fairs are becoming the decisive anchor point for the emergence of meetings and interactions between customers and exhibitors, which are essential to strengthening the latter's reputation.

After looked for other channels, merchants and art lovers are aware that a promising new wind is blowing on this hotly anticipated first fair and falling back on known quantities. Visitors and exhibitors are waiting impatiently for this return to physical contact that is necessary for the art market's operation as it is ideal for strolling and chatting.

What creative initiatives are you putting in place to respond to these changes?

Since the last edition, Antica Namur has encouraged young people and new galleries to open, giving them support. We'll continue in this direction for this new edition in order to present new contributors at the fair revealing innovative staging and selections. To mention just a few: Remarkable Paintings, Laurent Hasaerts and Alexis le Grelle, Georges Van Cauwenberg from Artimo Fine Arts, Antonin Gatier from Galerie Zèbres, Alexandre Werner from the gallery Arthus, etc.

At the same time, Antica Namur is continuing to extend its offering with more decorative arts and 20th century and contemporary works, artistic offshoots that speak to this young generation.

Furthermore, in order to share all our exhibitors' passion and enable better knowledge of art treasures in Belgium, Antica Namur collaborates with many partners who are active in the safeguarding of historical and artistic heritage. We collaborate with the King Baudoin Foundation and the City of Namur to promote many museums in the city and introduce people to rare pieces from their exceptional collections.

In terms of art as an opportunity for investment and family heritage, Antica Namur will offer an extended cycle of conferences addressing themes that respond to concrete questions from visitors and art lovers.

What are the assets you are banking on for the fair's success?

- quality and authenticity, which will not be lacking thanks to choice exhibitors who are solid pillars of the Belgian and European market and loyal to Antica Namur such as the Albert Vandervelden Foundation, Bernard De Leye, La Maison Costermans, Francis Janssens Van der Maelen, Henri Vanhoenacker, Artimo Fine Arts Gallery, Sebastien Tercelin de Joigny, Raf Van Severen, Arthus, Art et Patrimoine, Arnaud et Sylvie de Spa, NF Art Gallery, Gallery de Potter d'Indoye, Jan Muller, Jean François Régis, Pautot & Sugères, Patrick Martin, Bernard Bouisset, La Maison Papon, Didier de Radiguès for the gallery Art to get and many more.

- Eclecticism as part of a long tradition that is close to the organisers' hearts. For several years, Antica Namur has given pride of place to the main specialisms, from traditional art to the modern day: archaeology, Asian art, old designer and

contemporary furniture, the old masters, modern and contemporary painting, silverware, curiosity objects, jewellery, sculpture, etc.

- discovery, which is even stronger in this edition than in previous ones due to its position as the leading 'post-lockdown' art fair in Belgium; the exhibitors will astonish, surprise and enchant visitors with their latest acquisitions.

- the strengthened visitor experience at a time of greatly anticipated reunions after a long period of waiting, thanks to a festive and friendly setting and a fitting welcome for the event.

- the expertise of a team specialising in the organisation of fairs that is motivated and listens to new market requirements: from the selection of exhibitors to the creation of stands and welcoming visitors, the Fairtime team is committed to its exhibitors and visitors and ensuring the successful renaissance of Antica Namur, the first large-scale event of the fairs and market season in Belgium...

ANTICA NAMUR, HISTORICAL MARKET BAROMETER

Founded in 1977, over the years, Antica Namur has become one of the top 3 most prestigious and influential art fairs in Belgium. Established in the heart of the Walloon capital, in Namur Expo, each year it brings together over 120 European exhibitors for 10 days. Traditionally organised in the first fortnight of November, Antica Namur is considered as the barometer of the art fair season.

Demanding in its selection criteria and under the supervision of an expert commission, the fair can pride itself on a high level of quality and the presence of many big names on the Belgian and European art market, including old and new generations. However, Antica Namur is certainly not elitist. It remains very popular among young art collectors and lovers:

This year, Antica Namur will surprise and enchant you again.

ANTICA NAMUR - VISITOR INFO

OPENING HOURS

13 - 21 November, 2021

Monday to Friday : 1 pm – 7 pm

Weekend : 11 am – 7 pm

ADDRESS

Namur Expo

2, avenue Sergent Vrithoff

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INFORMATION

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