

Asian Art in Brussels

By JASLEEN KANDHARI

The Asian art and antiques fair, Asian Art in Brussels (AAB), the Brussels Ancient Art Fair (BAAF) and the Brussels Non-European Art Fair (BRUNEF) forms an art week of '3 Fairs' from 4 to 8 June in Brussels. During '3 Fairs' approximately 100 established international art dealers will congregate in Brussels to draw art aficionados to Belgium in June where galleries around the Grand Sablon area will showcase works of art presented by dealers from around the world.

Asian Art in Brussels provides a platform for the promotion, exhibition and sales of Asian and Islamic art with 23 dealers showcasing fine works of art from South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Himalayas. Participating galleries in AAB are Art Passage (San Francisco), Astamangala (Amsterdam), Gregg Baker Japanese Art (London), Buddhist Art (Berlin), Carlo Cristi (Belgium), Gisèle Croës (Brussels), Martin Doustar (Paris-Brussels), Duchange and Riché (Brussels), Famarte (Belgium), Indian Heritage (Paris), Karim Grusenmeyer (Brussels), Ancient Art of Asia (New York), Jacques How Choong (Brussels), Andre Kirbach Kunsthandel (Germany), Kitsune (Brussels), Kyoto Gallery (Brussels), Galerie Lamy (Brussels), Mingei Arts Gallery (Paris), Renaud Montméat Art d'Asie (Paris), Alexis Renard (Paris), John Siudmak (London), Wei Asian Arts (Brussels) and Michael Woerner (Hong Kong-Bangkok). The AAB fair has been vetted by a panel of independent experts and all pieces are certified by the Art Loss Register to ensure quality, authenticity and provenance.

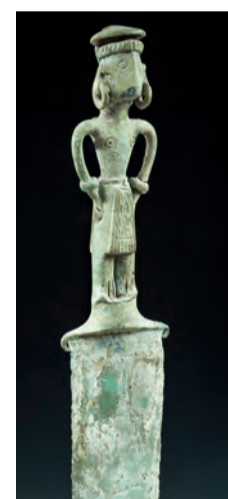
The lecture series for AAB will take place in the Museum of Musical Instruments.

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MIM: Museum of Musical Instruments - Asian Art Lectures



Earthenware kneeling court lady, Eastern Han dynasty (25-220), height 33.8 cm, Gisèle Croës. Photo Studio Roger Asselberghs - Frédéric Dehaen



Bronze dagger with an anthropomorphic handle, Dong Son culture, Vietnam, 500-200 BC, Doustar



Pichhivai, depicting the adoration of Krishna as Shri Nathji, during the full moon in August (Sharat Purnama), paint and gold on textile, India, Nathadvara, circa 1860-1870, 215 x 204 cm, Astamangala



Two-fold paper screen painted in ink and colour on a gold ground with a leaping shishi. Signed: Hgen Takugan hitsu (painted by Hogen Takugan), Japan 18th/19th century Edo period, 143 x 174 cm, Gregg Baker

Standing Buddha, Thailand, late Mon Dvaravati early Khmer influence, 10-11th century, bronze, height 17 cm, Buddhist Art



AAB PARTICIPANTS

Sjoerd de Vries of Astamangala is exhibiting his recent acquisitions of South Asian and Himalayan bronzes at a new address on rue de Minimes 52. A collection of Indian bronzes including Jain bronzes, Tibetan ritual objects and *thangkas* will be on display along with a large 19th-century Indian painted textile, or *pichhivai*, illustrating the adoration of Krishna as Sri Nathji.

New to AAB this year is Gregg Baker, who is exhibiting at Galerie Antoine Laurentin on rue Ernest Allard 43. Thirty Japanese works of art will be on display, comprising predominantly two-fold and six-fold Japanese screens, *byōbu* and *firosaki*, a selection of hanging scrolls, *kakemono*, and 15 other objects including metal

vases, *ikebana* vessels and masks. The highlight is an 18th/19th-century, two-fold paper screen painted in ink and colour on a gold ground with a leaping Chinese guardian lion, *shishi*, signed by the Kano school painter, Hogen Takugan hitsu.

Karsten Tietz of Buddhist Art's exhibition at rue des Minimes 61 entitled *From Angkor Wat to the Himalayas* features 50 pieces of Asian sculpture including Chinese, Tibetan, Khmer and Southeast Asian sculpture, highlights of which are a 10th/11th-century bronze Thai standing Buddha figure with late Mon Dvaravati and early Khmer influences and a Gandharan stucco head of the Buddha from the 4th/5th century.

The president of AAB, Carlo Cristi

is exhibiting his latest acquisition of bronzes and textiles at Galerie Champaka on rue Ernest Allard 27, with fine bronze sculptures from Tibet, Nepal and India from the early period of 8th to 15th centuries, along with Tibetan *thangka* from the 13th to 15th century, and early textiles from Central Asia from the 7th to 9th century. Some highlights on display are a 14th-century Tibetan bronze figure of Sadaksari, an ancient Indian copper anthropomorphic figure from the Gangetic Valley, 1500 BC, and an 8th-century Central Asian silk *samt* from Uzbekistan.

Brussels-based antique dealer Gisèle Croës opened her gallery more than 30 years ago with the aim of promoting a better understanding and appreciation of high-quality Oriental art. For AAB, she is presenting a Chinese art exhibition at her elegant gallery at 44 Avenue Emile Duray on the theme of diversity of material as a source of inspiration in Chinese art over several millennia, featuring works of art produced from bronze, earthenware, stone and wood. Highlights include archaic bronze vessels from the 17th century BC to the 2nd century AD, including a pair of archaic bronze vessels with inscribed petalled covers, *dou*, from 770-481 BC and a bronze kneeling figure which would have been used as a water container and dropper during the Han dynasty from 206 BC to AD 220.

Martin Doustar, who is participating at AAB for the first time at rue de Minimes 61, presents a single collection of Southeast Asian artefacts in an exhibition entitled, *The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia* featuring 50 works of art from the Dong San, Ban Chiang and Dian cultures of Vietnam during the Bronze Age, mainly comprising fine bronze objects like a



Pair of archaic bronze vessels with petalled cover, *dou*, Early Spring and Autumn period (770-481 BC), height 25 cm each. Inscriptions inside each vessel and cover, Gisèle Croës. Photo Studio Roger Asselberghs - Frédéric Dehaen

500-200 BC bronze dagger with an anthropomorphic handle from the Dong Son culture.

Nayef Homsî is presenting an exhibition at Galerie Tom Desmet on rue Watteu 16, focusing on the divine, the sensual and the devotional, comprising predominantly sculptural works from India dating from the 1st century to mediaeval times – around the 12th century. Early Buddhist sculpture from Gandhara will be featured along-side sculptures of Hindu deities from Rajasthan and Eastern India.

Jacques How Choong's exhibition focuses on the arts of China and Tibet with 30 works of art on display at rue des Minimes 19. Highlights include an iron sculpture of Mahakala, a sandstone bust of Guanyin from the Dali kingdom from the 11th to 13th century, a group of Dian kingdom



Taming of the Mad Elephant Nalagiri, grey schist, ancient region of Gandhara, circa 2nd century, 19.1 x 22.9 cm, Nayef Homsî



Painting depicting Shah Abbas Receiving the Mughal Ambassador Khan 'Alam in 1618, Mughal India, circa 1690, Alexis Renard