



Fon kudio-bochio, 19th century, 67 cm h

“ONE OF THE ‘HIGHLIGHTS’ PRESENTED DURING ART-A IS THE OUTSTANDING DOGON DANCE MASK FROM MALI. TWO ANTELOPE ‘HORNS’ CROWN A LONG, STYLISED FACE.”

ANN DE PAUW AND LUC HUYVELD

would have originally functioned as a kind of ‘lightning rod’: kudio-bochio attracted evil spirits away from their owners and protected them from harm.

Amma Tribal Art will also be showing the work by two contemporary Belgian artists: Camiel van Breedam (b. 1936) and Luc Claus (1930-2006). It will come as no surprise that both artists are known for their collections of African art. Claus is primarily recognised for his subdued charcoal drawings whereas Van Breedam uses

diverse materials to create three-dimensional assemblages. His minimalist work, *Schuinsteun* (2007), incorporates the pinewood planks that are typically used in domestic architecture.



Cornelis Mahu, "Stilleven met meloen en kan"
(Antwerpen 1613- 1689 Antwerpen)
Oil on canvas
59.5 x 72.2 cm

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Adriaen van Stalbemt, "Landschap"
 (Antwerpen 1580- 1662 Antwerpen)
 Oil on copper
 17 x 26.5 cm.

“DURING ART-A, ARENDS AND TAMMES ARE EXHIBITING TWO STUNNING PAINTINGS BY CORNELIS MAHU (1613-1689) AND ADRIAEN VAN STALBEMT (1580-1662) WHO WERE BORN, AND RAISED, IN ANTWERP.”

HENRIËTTE TAMMES AND ROBERT ARENDS

It is hard to estimate the total number of modern and contemporary art dealers in the world today – but the figure would certainly run into tens of thousands. The range of artworks they offer is also as broad as it is diverse. From photography, video art and painting, to installations and design, contemporary dealers have a singular advantage: a constant supply of new art. The number of dealers specialising in Old Masters is much smaller. Furthermore, truly outstanding works are in scarce supply and, therefore, much harder to find. The high prices fetched by great masterpieces are also an important consideration – and such works only become more expensive over time. Museums are, of course, familiar with the problem. But for Old Master dealers, every sale to a museum has a downside: prestigious though the acquisition might be, it invariably

means one less work on the market. Once an object enters a museum collection it is, in theory, safeguarded in perpetuity.

Henriëtte Tammes and Robert Arends originally opened a gallery dedicated to the sale of Old Masters in Amsterdam. In 1995, however, they relocated to Antwerp, where they are now the only dealers specialising in works of art from the Dutch Golden Age and by Flemish masters from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In addition, they also sell prints and drawings, and works by other artists, from the same period. Located in a handsome building on the Mechelsesteenweg, Arends & Tammes Fine Arts boasts two floors of exhibition space. Robert Arends is also an Old Master paintings conservator and regularly works for auction houses, museums



"Mercurius"
 Engraving
 44.5 x 31.2 cm
 Printmaker: Gerrit Gauw (...· Haarlem 1638)
 Design: Jacob Matham (Haarlem 1571- 1631 Haarlem)
 Publisher: Claes Visscher (Amsterdam, 1587-1652 Amsterdam)



"Paulus"
 Engraving
 45.5 x 35.0 cm
 Printmaker: Gerrit Gauw (...· Haarlem 1638)
 Design: Jacob Matham (Haarlem 1571- 1631 Haarlem)
 Publisher: Claes Visscher (Amsterdam, 1587-1652 Amsterdam)

and private collectors in this capacity. Over the years, he has skilfully restored countless paintings to their former glory.

During ART-A, Arends and Tammes are exhibiting two stunning paintings by artists who were born, and raised, in Antwerp. An outstanding still life by Cornelis Mahu (1613-1689) depicts a gold-plated beaker, a (fallen) silver tazza and a tall drinking cup. The composition, which is painted in muted colours, also includes a West-erdal earthenware jug with silver mounts, an

intricate knife, a melon, citrus fruits and grapes. The second work is small-scale painting on copper by Adriaen van Stalbemt (1580-1662). This wooded landscape, with a farm to the left, and a church, is a jewel-like wonder. A peasant farmer and his wife can be discerned in the foreground. The background is painted in the blues and turquoises that are so typical of early Flemish paintings. Also executed on copper is the mountain landscape by the German painter, Pieter Schoubroeck (circa 1570-1607/8). The many figures in this octagonal painting are

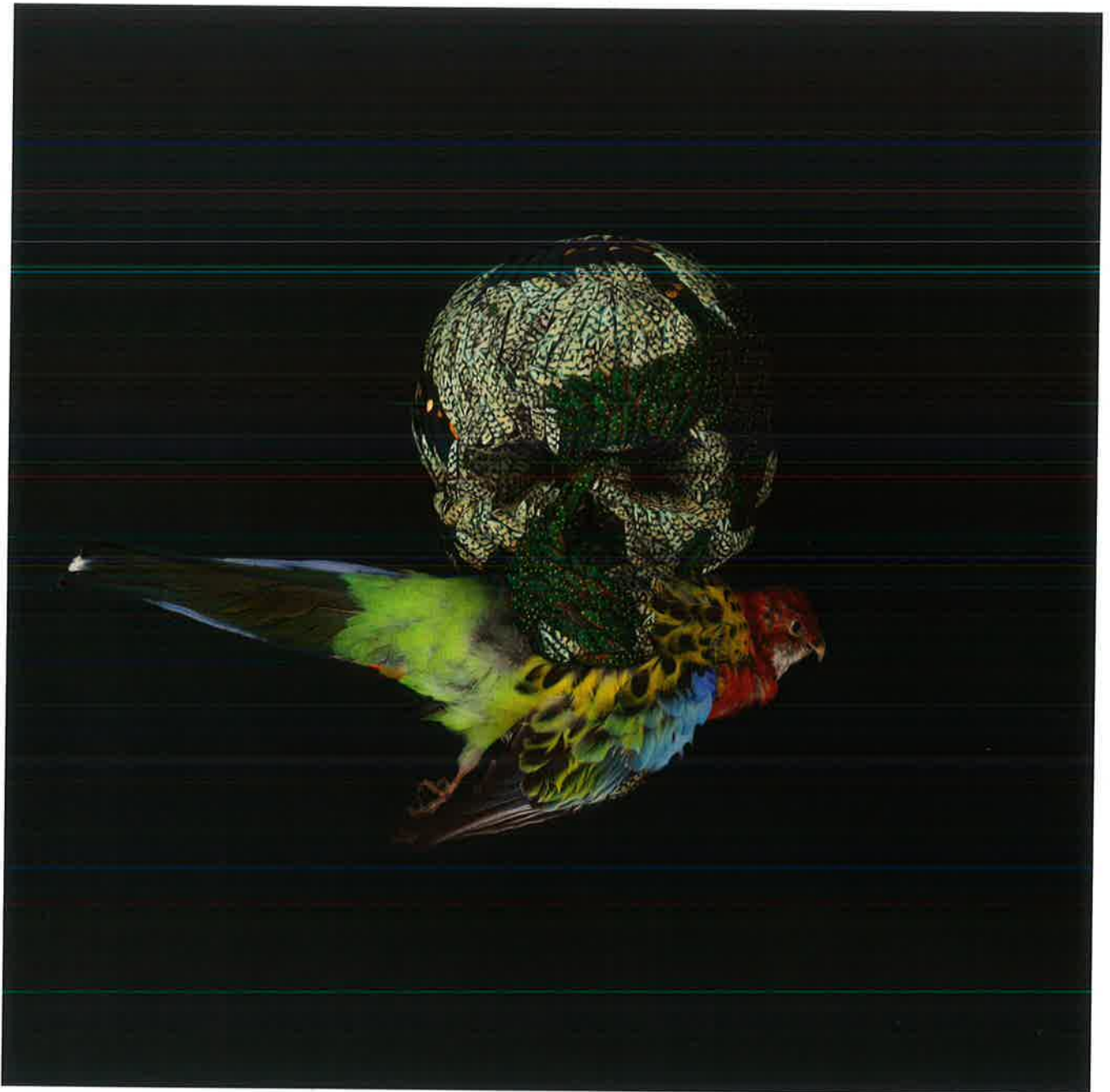


Pieter Schoubroeck
(Herzheim ca. 1570- 1607/8 Frankenthal)
"Berglandschap"
Oil on copper
24 x 24.4 cm.

a metaphorical device and – according to the vision of the day – represent the insignificance of man in relation to the overwhelming majesty of nature. Also of note are two early engravings that depict, respectively, Saint Paul and the god Mercury (the latter happens to be patron of god of financial gain, commerce and thieves, but that is another story...).

Based on a design by Jacob Matham, the engravings were published in Amsterdam by Claes Visscher (1587-1652) and printed by Gerrit Gauw (active in Haarlem; d.1638).

Arends & Tammes Fine Arts have a large international client base. This is due, in part, to the steady growth of interest in Old Master paintings. This sector of the market is also performing increasingly well at auction. For this reason alone, it makes sense to purchase an Old Master painting from a specialist. Furthermore, the global market for works of art is rapidly expanding thanks to the advent of digital auction catalogues and online bidding. But who wants to compete with the whole world when it comes to Old Master paintings...?



Jan Fabre, Skull with parrot
2010, 31 x 24 x 25 cm

AT THE GALLERY

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