

Press release

# PAN

AMSTERDAM

## PAN Amsterdam art and antiques fair in upbeat mood

*Helvoirt, 23 October 2008 – These are stirring times. And that also goes for the art and antiques trade, which seems to have a degree of resilience to fluctuations in the economic climate. The higher segment in particular is proving to be a reliable alternative to many classic forms of investment, with an added advantage—enjoyment. It is true that the 128 exhibitors at the fair are looking forward to PAN Amsterdam with some trepidation, but also with their own infectious optimism. They will be doing everything in their power to make PAN Amsterdam—the art and antiques fair of today—an event that no art-lover or collector can miss. Top items include an excellent scene of Rotterdam harbour, a book once owned by William of Orange and a painting by Botero. The Geef om Cultuur Foundation will be launched during the fair. PAN Amsterdam runs from 23 to 30 November in the RAI Parkhal in Amsterdam.*



*Rotterdam harbour scene by Lieve Verschuier from the Gladstone Collection*

### Design at PAN

New to PAN Amsterdam is a design pavilion. Six Dutch design specialists are responding to a growing number of collectors, particularly of modern and contemporary art, with a focus on 20th-century applied art. These six galleries will be showing furniture, lamps and other items by prominent designers in Europe and America. Histoire, a specialist in Scandinavian design, has the timeless *Scandia Lounge Chair* (1957), made of rosewood with a countersunk iron support, to a design by the Norwegian Hans Brattrud.

### Gladstone

Rob Kattenburg is showing a panoramic view of Rotterdam harbour in the setting sun by Lieve Verschuier (1634-1686). This magnificent painting has not been on the market for two hundred

years. It was owned by the Gladstone family, one of whose members was William E. Gladstone, prime minister of Great Britain four times between 1868 and 1894. Asking price: €750,000.

### **Renaissance cabinet**

The top item with Bruil & Brandsma is a Renaissance cabinet with six statues. The large piece is lavishly decorated with garlands of fruit, marine creatures and six statues depicting three virtues and three vices. Its superb quality points to a maker from Amsterdam. Made around 1645, this cabinet was intended as a wedding present for a merchant who sailed to the East Indies or the Baltic. Asking price: €260,000.

### **Botero**

The Colombian Fernando Botero is a skilful painter of fat, colourful figures. One such is *Equilibrista*, in which an acrobat tries to keep her balance high in the air. A painting from a circus series with animal tamers, animals, acrobats and clowns. Studio 2000 is offering the work at PAN for around €450,000.

### **Renaissance clock**

Van Kollenburg Antiquairs is asking €70,000 for an unusual Renaissance clock. It is engraved with Judith, Lucretia and the arms of the Farnese family on the front. The clock was made for Alexander Farnese, who recaptured large parts of the Netherlands for Philip II of Spain in 1579.

### **Story of a dream**

*Hypnerotomachia, ou Discours du songe de Poliphile* by Francesco Colonna was published in Paris in 1553. It describes Poliphilo's search for his beloved Polia. The book is illustrated with 181 woodcuts. The copy offered by Antiquariaat Forum comes from the library of William of Orange. His family arms are displayed on the leather binding. Asking price: under €1 million.

### **Afghanistan**

Polak Works of Art is presenting *Folk pottery from the Swat valley*, a collection of more than a hundred dishes from Afghanistan. The majolica dishes are painted with geometric and abstract floral patterns in green, yellow and white. They date from the 18th and 19th centuries and cost €250 each.

### **Love**

The painting *Jing Ping Mei* by Wei Guangqing at E. Pranger Oriental Art is made up of several layers. In the background is the word LOVE, in which the three characters of Jing, Ping and Mei have been left blank. These are the main female characters in the classic erotic novel *The Plum in the Golden Vase*. This book describes the downfall of a businessman who enjoyed an energetic love life.

### **Circumcision**

One of the top items in the collection of De Backker Medieval Art is a little Brussels sculpture, once part of an altar retable dated around 1425. It shows *The Circumcision*. Not only is the quality remarkable, the painting is also extremely well preserved.

### **Silk screen prints**

The canvases by the American pop artists Roy Liechtenstein and Tom Wesselman might be very expensive, but their silk screen prints are within easier reach. Among other things Kunsthandel Meijer is bringing *Moonscape* by Liechtenstein, for €14,500, and *Still Life with Blond and Gold Fish* by Wesselman, which costs €19,500.

### **Geef om Cultuur Foundation launch**

The Geef om Cultuur Foundation will introduce itself at PAN Amsterdam. In the spring of 2009 this not-for-profit foundation will be opening the Geef om Cultuur Centre, which wants to act as

an intermediary between private donors and art organizations. On Monday 24 November, collectors, donors and representatives of museums and funds will exchange views in a panel discussion about the use of this mediation and about more collaboration within the culture sector. This is all about attracting more private money for the arts. The Foundation's was set up by Renée Steenberg, who recently published the book *De Nieuwe Mecenas*. For further information: [www.geefomcultuur.nl](http://www.geefomcultuur.nl).

***Van Lanschot Bankiers is the main sponsor of PAN Amsterdam 2008.***

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**Note for editors:**

You can find this press release and various images in high resolution (300 dpi) on [www.pan.nl](http://www.pan.nl) under Press, Illustrations. If you would like to attend the forum discussion on 24 November please contact PAN Amsterdam. For further information:

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