
Publication: NYtimes.com

Date: March 17, 2017

Author: Scott Reyburn

The New York Times

Tefaf Maastricht, While ‘Softer,’ Still Impresses

By SCOTT REYBURN MARCH 17, 2017

For 30 years, Tefaf Maastricht in the Netherlands has been the world’s pre-eminent fair for art and antiques. But in recent years, collectors’ tastes have shifted from the old to the new, and Europe has experienced terrorist attacks and political instability. Tefaf’s reputation as a destination event faces challenges, particularly now that the fair, run by a nonprofit foundation, has established smaller **spring and fall editions in New York.**

New realities were plain to see and hear during the first few days of the Tefaf fair that opened at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Center on March 10. This year’s 30th edition, starting just days before a **fractious general election** in the Netherlands, featured 275 dealers specializing in works ranging from distant antiquity to the 21st century.

“It’s a little softer,” said Donald Ellis, a New York dealer in Native American art and one of 19 new exhibitors at Tefaf. “You can feel there aren’t as many Americans.”

That said, Mr. Ellis sold his star piece — an 18th-century Alaskan wood atlatl, or throwing board — to a New York collector during the first few hours of the preview on March 9. Reminiscent of a Modernist sculpture, and one of just 11 known examples, it was priced at 200,000 euros, or roughly \$213,000.



An 18th-century Alaskan wood atlatl, or throwing board, sold to a New York collector during the first few hours of the Tefaf preview. via Donald Ellis Gallery