

On *Interart*

Our company *Interart* has been organising exhibitions since 1990. Its very first exhibition was on Salvador Dalí, an artist who has always remained in the focus of our attention.

Interart has organised tens of exhibitions showing works of various artists in Belgian towns such as Brussels, Seraing, Antwerp and De Haan and in countries such as Germany, Luxemburg, Italy and the Netherlands. Themes, subjects and artists contributing to these exhibitions were diverse as well with world-famous artists such as Christo, ethnographic African and Aboriginal art, exhibitions both on Belgian individual artists and groups. *Interart* participated in eminent art fairs such as *Lineart* and *Classic*. The company lately specialised in the production of customized decorative painting, a completely different line within the world of 'home decoration'.

But in the course of time it became clear that we wished to turn back to our first love of our favourite artist: Salvador Dalí.

There are a lot of fascinating aspects with the art produced by Dalí. He clearly appeared to be an all round artist, was an eccentric, has always attracted the attention of a large number of fans and has produced in his long career a great number of artistic works, which can be acquired today at reasonable prices.

Unique works of art are displayed and sold by our company *Interart*, which operates on the arts market without subsidies nor grants. The works that *Interart* sells are originals which hold an artistic and a commercial value.

Since the death of Dalí in 1989, a dispute has developed in the media about the rights of inheritance concerning the work of the artist. The Spanish government has founded a fund (*Fondation Gala-Dalí*), with the objective of controlling Dalí's legacy. An ex-secretary of Dalí meanwhile claimed the artist's rights through a document which he unjustly presented as a testament. He decided that it gave him the right to have Dalí's work produced and sold after the artist's death, to the dismay of the *Fondation Gala-Dalí* and the editors who had produced authentic etches, lithographic works and sculptures, ordered by the master himself and evidently during his life.

At the time of this dispute, arts dealers and galleries had the choice of either selling the new productions or respect the guidelines of authenticity issued by the *Fondation*. From the very beginning, *Interart* has resolutely opted to do the latter and has therefore successfully withstood any attack by winning all legal cases concerning the authenticity of the works on display and for sale. The company has received the spontaneous help of Dalí's personal friends, co-operators and editors in this. These helped *Interart* develop a Dalí-archive, which today is probably one of the most complete in Europe.

In 1997 we had the opportunity of working with the non-profit cultural organisation Oud St.-Jan in the newly renovated buildings of the St.-Jans Hospital, Bruges. On that occasion the exhibition put on display work coming from the private collections of the Albaretto family: paintings, watercolours and drawings. The exhibition was a great success. It provided rare and precious collections that have made the present exhibition at the Belfort so much richer. After numerous summer exhibitions at the Belfry of Bruges, *Interart* took the opportunity offered by the city council of Bruges and CVBA Adornes to obtain a long-term lease on this unique location and to set up a permanent exhibition at the Belfry. The ground floor halls have been completely renovated after considerable investments in artistic design. Important collections deserve to be displayed in an attractive and professional showroom and *Interart* has done a great deal to bring this about.

By systematically refusing works of art which were doubtful as to their origin, our company has developed a solid international reputation as reliable art dealers.

Some people dislike the combination of art and commerce. And yet, at renowned art fairs such as Christie's and Sotheby's, the quality and value of the works of art for sale is virtually unquestioned and rightly so. Art critics and connoisseurs find nothing wrong with this, as long as the sales are organised with respect for correct guidelines and fair play.

At our exhibition some works can be purchased. Purchases can be done at a discreet counter, away from the main exhibition rooms so that the visual attraction of the display and their concept is not in any way endangered.

Interart promises to renew its collections year by year, so as to keep offering challenging new work all the time.

Interart moves into higher gear with this exhibition and is happy making your dreams come true. The concept, ideas, design and artistic decoration was entrusted to *Grand Opera Decor*, led by the genial Barron Saint Mythelfinger, who stands for originality and quality. We value his motto: 'excellent is not even good enough'.

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