Rubens: sketches and silverware!

The Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium are welcoming two exceptional pieces of silverware inspired by Rubens! This loan from the Colette and Pierre Bauchau Fund managed by the King Baudouin Foundation is accompanied by the new hanging of painted oil sketches, beautiful first drafts of some of the greatest works of the artist.

From October 21st 2014 until January 25th 2015, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (RMFAB) will display the silver water jug and plate (1635-36) that depict historical scenes inspired by Peter Paul Rubens. This takes place within the context of the rehanging of the eighteen painted oil sketches, exclusively from the hand of Rubens, that belong to their collections.

In collaboration with the King Baudouin Foundation and thanks to the generosity of Sir and Mrs Bauchau, the RMFAB offer a remarkable set of art pieces that perfectly illustrate the influence and the extent of Rubens's activities within all artistic domains and amongst the most influential men and women of his era.

Silverware from a prestigious background

The silver water jug and plate were very likely created around 1635-36 by the famous silversmith Théodoor I Rogiers (1602-1654?) from Antwerp. These extremely rare pieces were supposedly owned by the second son of Peter Paul Rubens, Nicolas, and maybe even by the old master himself.
Birth of the biggest works of Rubens

The Museums possess, amongst others, a sketch of one of the paintings on the ceiling of the Carolus Borromeus Church in Antwerp (destroyed paintings) and another one that was used for the elaboration of one of the ceiling canvases of the Banqueting Hall (Whitehall Palace), at the request of Charles I of England.

The museums also hold twelve delicate oil sketches that Rubens made for the decoration of the Torre de la Parada, the hunting pavilion of the Spanish King Philippe IV near Madrid. They also preserve a sketch of Victory of the Eucharist, a recently restored model of the tapestry on the same subject that can be found at the monastery of las Descalzas Reales and that was ordered by Isabelle from Hapsburg, then governess of the Netherlands.

A unique confrontation

The confrontation between the Torre de la Parada sketches and the King Baudouin Foundation silverware are made even more interesting by the fact that both date from the same period (1636-1638). Moreover, the sketches illustrate topics taken from Metamorphoses by Ovidius whereas the water jug and plate are embellished with multiple scenes from, amongst others, the classical antiquity.
**Practical information**

**Opening hours**
From 21/10/2014 until 25/01/2015
Tuesday>Sunday | 10:00 > 17:00
Starting December 1st: Tuesday > Friday | 10:00 > 17:00 & Saturday > Sunday | 11:00 > 18:00
Closed Mondays, 1st and 11th of November, 25th of December, 1st and 8th of January
3 Rue de la Régence | 1000 Brussels

**Entrance fees**
Ticket Old Masters Museum
€8 adults
€6 seniors
€2 youth, disabled and assistants, teachers
€0 friends of RMFAB, ICOM members, children accompanied by adults

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**For more information**
Our partners

King Baudouin Foundation

The King Baudouin Foundation has been devoted to preserving and protecting our national heritage for over 25 years. Its Cultural Heritage Fund acquires works of art and historical documents in order to make them stand out and render them accessible to the general public. Its collection spreads out over more than 20 institutions across the whole country. With the help of different Maecenas, the Foundation has been able to build up a valuable collection across the years.

The Philanthropic Centre of the Foundation responds to the questions of the Maecenas and advises them on the realization of their project. As such, in 1999, Sir and Madam Bauchau decided to create a fund in their name, their main purpose being to keep the Rubens silverware in Belgium. These pieces have been trusted to the Rubens House, but are regularly exhibited in different museums throughout Belgium, as was their wish.

The King Baudouin Foundation is a foundation for the common good that supports projects and people that are working towards a better society. The Foundation wishes to contribute in a sustainable way to the enhancement of justice, democracy and respect for diversity. It is an independent and pluralistic foundation that is authorized to receive gifts, legacies and donations. It first saw the light of day in 1976 at the occasion of the 25 year anniversary of the reign of King Baudouin.

King Baudouin Foundation: www.kbs-frb.be
Cultural Heritage Website: http://www.heritage-kbf.be/
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The Rubens House

Bought by the artist in 1610, the Rubens House has been transformed into a museum with a splendid Renaissance garden.

http://www.rubenshuis.be/Museum_Rubenshuis_EN
Exhibition of the pieces of silverware from the Rubens era since the donation

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