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# LAFFANOUR GALERIE DOWNTOWN/PARIS



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ANTIQUÉ TRADE GAZETTE

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Par Anne Crane

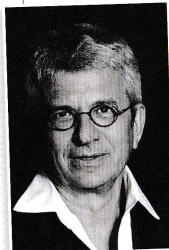
## TEFAF 2017 Exhibitors

### The stalwarts

#### François Laffanour

Galerie Downtown is the Paris left-bank gallery of François Laffanour (**below left**) specialising in furniture by 20th century European and American masters of design.

The gallery shows at many of the pre-eminent art, antiques and design fairs including *Design Miami/Basel*, *PAD Paris* and *ZONA Maco* in Mexico City as well as the *Paris Biennale*, and has taken part in *TEFAF Maastricht* since 2005 in the design section. It will also be taking part in the inaugural *TEFAF New York Spring* in May.



© Franck Perrin

For this year's Maastricht, Downtown's stand will focus on the work of Charlotte Perriand with a display of around 60 pieces by the sought-after and influential French Inter-war and Mid-century designer.

These are a mix of selected individual private commissions plus two or three pieces that she designed in 1959 for the *Maison Borot* in Montmartre.

Laffanour discovered the interior of the Borot house in the French magazine *Aujourd'hui, Art et Architecture* in the 1970s. With the co-operation of Borot's family, 30 years later he acquired the furniture and published *Charlotte Perriand, une maison à Montmartre* in 2012.

The gallery says its Maastricht display will recreate "both the atmosphere of the Borot house and the universe of Charlotte Perriand that we find nowadays in contemporary interiors". The

price range will be **€10,000-650,000**.

Laffanour says the gallery's clientele are predominantly private, many of them long-standing customers along with some new international collectors. The majority hail from France, Belgium and the US, followed by clients from Asia and Latin America.

He adds: "At Maastricht we sometimes meet new clients but mainly we meet collectors we have known for a long time."

[galeriedowntown.com](http://galeriedowntown.com)

Below: an 8ft (2.4m) square Charlotte Perriand wall storage of 1959 in oak with sliding doors to the upper and lower sections and a blue-tinted interior, one of the pieces by the designer that Galerie Downtown will show at *TEFAF Maastricht*.



© Marie-Clerin, Laffanour, Galerie Downtown, Paris



**Above:** this year, among Johnny Van Haeften's highlights at Maastricht is a pair of Frans Hals portraits which he says are rare to find together.

The provenance of the paintings is that Comte de Thiennes, Kasteel Rumebeke, Belgium, acquired them in the 19th century. In recent years they were with Robert Noortman Gallery and were bought by a Belgian private collector in 1996. They were offered but unsold at a Sotheby's sale in New York on January 29, 2009, but were later acquired by Van Haeften in 2016.

#### Johnny Van Haeften

The Old Master specialist has been going to Maastricht for 40 years.

He jokes: "I have spent one and a half years of my life in the Crowne Plaza in Maastricht."

This year he has downsized his business and moved from St James's to the coach house next to his home in Richmond.

"I am still enjoying work. We are very busy. I am even busier than when I was in the gallery," he says.

Even now in what he describes as "semi-retirement" he will be showing at Maastricht this year.

But he has stepped down from the venerable art and antiques fair's executive committee: "I decided it was time to give young talent a chance."

This may be his last show as an exhibitor: "I am still in discussions with my wife about whether we do it next year. We have not quite decided."

He remains on the board of trustees at *TEFAF*.

Despite concerns that the fair is losing its buzz in its 30th year in its current incarnation, Van Haeften says: "People bring new and fresh things every year. There will always be innovations at the fair, always tweaking and changing. Opening in New York was a successful innovation."

[johnnyvanhaeften.com](http://johnnyvanhaeften.com)

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Right: Johnny Van Haeften.