

PRESS RELEASE

Brueghel: The Spirit of Collecting

Paintings. Sculpture. Wonders.

Brun Fine Art – De Jonckheere, Milan

22 September – 19 December 2026

Brun Fine Art and De Jonckheere are pleased to present **Brueghel. The Spirit of Collecting. Paintings. Sculpture. Wonders.**, an exhibition hosted at Brun Fine Art, Via Gesù 17, Milan, and conceived through the collaboration between the two galleries.

At a time when Milan is devoting renewed attention to the Brueghel dynasty—also through the exhibition *The Brueghels. The Origins of European Painting Genres* at Palazzo Reale—this project explores the spirit of collecting and the dialogue between painting, sculpture and the decorative arts.

The Flemish paintings presented by De Jonckheere are brought into conversation with the sculptures and decorative arts selected by Brun Fine Art. The result is a unified exhibition path, shaped by iconographic, material and symbolic relationships that establish meaningful dialogues between the works.

The painting section features masterpieces by Jan Brueghel the Elder, Jan Brueghel the Younger, Pieter Brueghel the Younger and Pieter Brueghel III, alongside works by David Teniers the Younger and Jan van Kessel the Younger. Highlights include *Lot and His Daughters, with Sodom and Gomorrah in Flames* by Jan Brueghel the Elder, the series of three tondi depicting the *Seasons*, and the *Outdoor Wedding Dance* by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, signed and dated 1612.

Landscapes, proverbs, peasant festivities and still lifes testify to the Brueghels' remarkable ability to transform even the most ordinary aspects of daily life into richly populated worlds filled with figures, animals, objects and symbolic references. The continuity of production across several generations also reveals the remarkably modern organisation of the workshop, based on the transmission of models, artistic specialisation and the creation of variations destined for an international market.

The paintings are accompanied by sculptures and decorative works chosen to amplify their themes and visual resonances. The exhibition includes a Roman marble satyr's head, *Bacchus* by Giuseppe Maria Mazza, a pair of Chinese pagodas by Giovanni Bonazza, an allegorical terracotta bust from Lorenzo Sarti's *Seasons* series, a pair of amber mirrors, Della Robbia terracottas, a pair of hardstone panels by Giovanni and Cosimo Castrucci, and *Triton* by Valentino Panciera Besarel. The variety of periods, subjects and materials evokes the inquisitive and eclectic character of historical collections.

Rather than reconstructing a historical *Wunderkammer*, the exhibition revives its underlying principle: bringing together works from different periods, materials and functions, allowing their proximity to generate new interpretations. Paintings, sculptures and wonders thus form an exhibition in which collecting emerges as both an exercise of the eye and a way of understanding the world through objects.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue that further explores its themes. Two introductory essays—by **Dr Carlotta Striolo** on the paintings and **Dr Enrico Colle** on the decorative arts—present the exhibition's two principal sections. The catalogue is completed by scholarly entries on each work, written by leading specialists in their respective fields.

Title: *Brueghel. The Spirit of Collecting*

Subtitle: *Paintings. Sculpture. Wonders.*

Venue: Brun Fine Art

Address: Via Gesù 17, Milan

Dates: 22 September – 19 December 2026

A project by: Brun Fine Art and De Jonckheere

Introductory essays: Dr Carlotta Striolo (Paintings); Dr Enrico Colle (Decorative Arts)

Catalogue entries: Written by leading scholars and specialists

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