CENTURY OF BELGIAN PAINTING
FROM FELICIEN ROPS TO JAN FABRE

Frissiras Museum presents an overview of Belgian painting from the end of the 19th century up to our days. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Belgium in Greece, His Excellency Mr. Claude Rijmenans, and is open to the public from Thursday 18th March 2004.

Belgian art, far removed from theoretical bombast, it has built its tradition upon simple formulations. Inescapably at the centre, painting endures either as matter, gesture or reflection. This exhibition, based on private collections, is an invitation to look, testifying the traditional opulence of Belgium. Land of collectors, Belgium never ceases to enrich its culture with collections that attest at once to the high standard of creation and the generosity of an active society that continually seeks its identity in art.

As the curator of the exhibition and professor of the University of Brussels, Mr Michel Draguet commends in the bilingual catalogue that accompanies the exhibition: "Rops, Khnopff and the Symbolists provided the basis of reflection that stimulated the Surrealists - Magritte first - as well as their contemporary descendants. What significance should be attributed to representation as a form of language? Symbolism's exploratory language of the real; Expressionism's language that tells of modern angst; the Surrealist tongue as an emancipatory tool via the imagination; then with the first wave of Abstracts, language as instrument for the creation of a new world; and lastly with Cobra group, language avowed to gestural freedom. Like so many trails for so many truths that ultimately defer to the modesty of the gaze".

Our perspective history, through the presentation of worldwide known artists, is an important course organized in the manner of an essay. Among others we present: the 'erotic' painter - designer of the end of the 19th century Felicien Rops, the master of Belgian symbolism Fernand Khnopff, the expressionist, presenter of a tragic-comical reality James Ensor, the painter of deserted and melancholic landscapes Leon Spilliaert, the pioneer of Flemish expressionism Constant Permeke, the artist - milestone in the art history of 20th century, the genius surrealist Rene Magritte, the surrealist Paul Delvaux, the co-founder of the famous group Cobra Pierre Alechinsky, the inventor-visioner Panamarenko, and the younger representative of contemporary Belgian creation Jan Fabre.

This exhibition seeks out the crossroads and the encounters that, beyond the logic of trends that have greatly influenced the writing of art history in the 20th century, mingle confront and reunite in order to single out the main themes that have determined the particularity of Belgian art.

In total, eighty works of forty one Belgian artists will be exhibited at the Frissiras Museum, 3 MonisAsteiou str, until 30th June 2004.

Curator: professor Michel Draguet
Organisation: Martha Chalikia, Evangelia Kaldeli
The exhibition is sponsored by CGU Insurance
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