



FONDATION  
GANDUR  
POUR L'ART

Press release

Art - Publication

### ***NARRATIVE FIGURATION, NEW CATALOGUE FROM THE FONDATION GANDUR POUR L'ART***

*Geneva, 7 November 2017* – The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (FGA) is pleased to announce the publication of a catalogue dedicated to narrative figuration, an artistic movement that emerged in France in the early 1960s. This second volume in a series launched in 2014 brings to light over 130 works of art from the FGA's fine arts collection, which forms one of the most important bodies of works of this movement.

This new 335-page catalogue is the second volume of a series that offers in-depth analysis of major pieces from the FGA's different collections. The first volume, *Egyptian Bronzes*, published in 2014, was dedicated to the bronze section of its Ancient Egypt collection.

#### **Mass culture, the source of an artistic revival**

Breaking away from a decade dominated by abstraction, narrative figuration emerged in Paris in the early 1960s and brought together artists from all over Europe. Similar to the pop art movement, it sought to find a new figuration through the re-use of images from mass media, advertising and comics for critical purposes. It differs from the American movement in its use of the imagination, humour, derision and even political provocation. Seen consequently as a protest movement, its style persisted in post-1968 graphic works both within and outside Europe.

**Jean Claude Gandur** has made collecting narrative figuration art works one of his priorities: "Narrative figuration was for me an artistic revelation, and has led the collector that I am to a territory far removed from my usual areas of interest. And yet, since my first acquisition in December 2006, I have increasingly realised the historical importance of this movement, and have consistently created opportunities for the public to (re)discover it."

The catalogue *Narrative Figuration* was compiled under the direction of Jean-Paul Ameline, former Chief Curator of the National Museum of Modern Art (Pompidou Centre) in Paris, in conjunction with Yan Schubert, Curator of the FGA's fine arts collection. The publication is further enriched with contributions from numerous art historians and curators in the form of analyses and comments on the works of art presented.

"In both the American and European movements," explains Jean-Paul Ameline, "artists once again speak about their time and employ the language specific to that period. They both use everyday images that can be seen on the streets, while narrative figuration artists don't hesitate to use them to express their thoughts or innermost feelings."

Published by 5 Continents Editions, *Narrative Figuration* will be the first major work devoted to this movement to be also published in English. Available in bookshops on 22 November for € 55.



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### **About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art**

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was founded in Geneva by Swiss art collector and entrepreneur Jean Claude Gandur in 2010 with the aim of conserving, enriching and exhibiting the collections developed for over 40 years.

Its mission includes making the collections available to museums, the academic world and the general public. Reflecting Jean Claude Gandur's conviction that culture should be accessible to all, the foundation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and, more recently, the publication of reference catalogues. The Foundation has also developed a number of partnerships, notably with the National Museum Centre for Arts Reina Sofía (Spain). The Foundation strictly adheres to the code of ethics established by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The foundation's collections cover four distinct areas: an archaeology collection with over 1,200 works of art from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East; a collection with more than 800 European paintings, mostly post-war, considered as one of the most important for the period in private ownership; a decorative arts collection with over 400 pieces, including decorative objects, furniture and pieces of art from the twelfth to the eighteenth century; and an ethnology collection with over 200 artefacts from Latin America and Oceania.

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