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Press release

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THE FONDATION GANDUR POUR L'ART UNVEILS ITS DECORATIVE ARTS COLLECTION THROUGH A FIRST CATALOGUE

Geneva, 6 November 2020 – The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (FGA) is publishing a first catalogue devoted to the secular and sacred Western arts from the 12th to the 18th centuries. This book showcases the main works of the FGA's decorative arts collection, studied and analysed by German, French and Swiss curators and university researchers.

The new 304-page catalogue, titled *The Decorative Arts (I), Sculptures, Enamels, Maiolicas, and Tapestries* is the third volume in a series that offers an in-depth analysis of some of the major works in the FGA's various collections. The first volume, *Egyptian Bronzes*, published in 2014, focused on bronzes in the Egyptian archaeology collection. The second volume, *The Narrative Figuration*, published in 2017, brought together the paintings of the eponymous pictorial movement that emerged in France in the early 1960s.

Artworks with a dual function: narrative and ornamental

The sculptures, enamel plaques, maiolicas, and tapestries featured in this publication have an important symbolic and spiritual value. From a Bavarian wax representing the Age of Bronze to a series of tapestries from the Manufacture des Gobelins depicting the loves of Daphnis and Chloe, from a monumental Neapolitan Madonna in wood to a Descent from the Cross from Augsburg in embossed silver, this collection takes readers on multiple avenues of reflection amidst the testimonies of the history of beliefs and sensibilities, from the Gothic period to the Age of Enlightenment.

"I find sculptures and objects relating to religious and profane art, from the period of the Middle Ages to the 18th century, truly fascinating. They acquaint us with our roots and recount the cultural history of Europe," declares Jean Claude Gandur, Chairman Founder of the FGA.

The book is organized thematically in such a way that it reflects the originality and wealth of the collection. It is divided into five chapters: ancient gods and heroes, biblical and allegorical figures, scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary, episodes from the life of Christ, and saints and intercessors. Each work is accompanied by a notice that places it in its stylistic, social, cultural and/or religious context.

Edited by Fabienne Fravalo, curator of the decorative arts collection of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, this catalogue also comprises an introductory essay by Marion Boudon-Machuel, professor at the University of Tours, and a specialist in the history of sculpture in modern times.

"The statues and reliefs at the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art are all remarkable in quality, some even standing out as truly exceptional pieces. Of undeniable interest both individually and as works in a collection, they also offer several gateways into a panorama of the history of sculpture from the Middle Ages to the close of the modern period," explains Marion Boudon-Machuel.



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Co-published with 5 Continents Editions (Milan) and available in English and French, *The Decorative Arts (I), Sculptures, Enamels, Maiolicas, and Tapestries* will be on sale in bookshops from 6 November at a retail price of 48 euros.

About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was established in 2010 by the collector and Swiss entrepreneur, Jean Claude Gandur, with the purpose of protecting, enriching and exhibiting his art collections, amassed over a period of some forty years.

The Fondation's mission is to make its works of art available to museums, the academic world and to the general public. Based on Jean Claude Gandur's belief that culture should be open to everyone, the Fondation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and through the publication of catalogues. It has also developed several partnerships, in particular with the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (Spain) and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon. The Fondation is a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) since 2013, as well as the Association des musées suisses (AMS) since 2019. It adheres strictly to the ICOM code of ethics.

The Fondation's collections are organized into four distinct domains: an archaeology collection with over 1,250 Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Middle-Eastern objets d'art; a fine arts collection of more than 1,050 mainly post-war European paintings, which makes it one of the most important privately-owned collections for this period; a decorative arts collection comprising almost 400 works, including sculptures, furniture and objets d'art ranging from the 12th to the 18th centuries; and finally an ethnology collection of almost 450 objects coming from Latin America and Oceania.

www.fg-art.org

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