

Tefaf Maastricht

VI

Savoy-Sarr fails to dent tribal market



e market. Commissioned by the French esident Emmanuel Macron and Commissioned by the French president Emmanuel Macron and written by the academics Béhédicte Savoy and Felvine Sarr, the report recommends the "swift restitution" of colonial-era artefacts from French museums to Africa. There has been concern that the report. published in November, will discourage private collectors of tribal art from buying and donating to museums. Claes, though, says he has not seen any

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signs that the report will hit business at Tefaf Maastricht this

month, where tribal art is a small but important specialism - six exhibitors focus on the field. "Quite the contrary," he declares. "With these debates about restitution, we have never spoken so much about African art."

much about African art." Claes concedes that collectors "were a little worried at first", but now "new clients are showing up". He adds: "This debate will even increase the craze [for African art] and we will see a stronger market grow."

thrican art) and we will see a stronger market grow." Class has, however, criticised the report for being 'too negative' and for suggesting that everything acquired during the colonial period was stolen and therefore should be returned. Fellow Belgian dealer and Trefaf Maastricht exhibitor Bernard de Grunne agrees. To say colonisation was a

To say colonisation was a crime against humanity, as Macron did, is absurd," he says. "Claims that all of these pieces were stolen is a complete lie." He estimates that 80% to 90% of pieces in



Part of the tribal art tribe: dealer Didier Claes splay at Tefaf M

private and public institutions were sold legitimately. "This is the secondary market; these works have come down through four or five collections." Describing the report as a "French problem", De Grunne says it raises more questions than it answers

"Who are the legitimate owners? How much do we give back? Is it not reverse racism to say that only African countries should show African art?"

As for the market, De Grunne says the report is "not having a dramatic effect". The Paris auctions in December "did ok", while the Brafa fair in "nd ok, while the Brata Far in Brussels in January was "in between". The issue now is clarity. "As long as there is uncertainty it will have some sort of effect." he says. Clase says the Savoy-Sarr report was prepared in just six months – "it serves as a basis for debate".

the best restaurant in Maastricht – but there is no way i'm going to share worldfree haven." Pampoulides says. And while Davies says everyone "will tell you Café Zondag is a great bar", he claims to know "far better and less well-known ones" – but won't name names as he wants to keep them that way. For something more civilised, Clist recommends the restaurant Le Virage, "a comforting place with good food and charming staff", while the Russian at specialist James Butterwick says: "I do love Restaurant O." The golden ticket is a private dinner in the caves of the Michelin-starred Château Neercanne in an idylic got just outside the city. the best restaurant in Maastricht – but

Ruinously expensive remember to forget your wallet. your wallet. Stephen Ongpin, the works on paper dealer, prefers the simpler life. He says: "My single favourite restaurant in Maastricht is a cheap and cheerful but very good Chinese

ADDRESS BOOK

Anny Sh

One of the proposed solutions is that questionable pieces should be shared rather than restituted.

"Sharing is important," Claes says.

"Sharing is important," Claes says. "No matter what it's called, Africa needs to have access to its heritage," However, he cautions that African nations need to first develop "a real cultural political will around art – not only on the issue of restitution". Anny Shoy

Café Sjiek, Sint Pleterstraat 13 Café Zondag, Wycler Brugstraat 42 Le Salonard, Maastrichter Heidenstraat 2A

GOLDEN

- Heidenstraat 2A Specialiteitenhuis 't Rommedoe Wycker Brugstraat 43 Restaurant O, Rechtstraat 76 Le Virage, Cortenstraat 2, 2B Château Neercanne, Cannerweg I Wen Chow, Spoorweglaan 5 Thermae 2000, Cauberg 25-27
- eg 800

restaurant just opposite the train station, called Wen Chow." To sweat out all that wine, cheese and chow mein. Clist heads to the Thermae 2000 spa in Valkenburg. "Some of the saunas are outside, along with a cold swimming pool, so when it's frosty or even snowy the visit is astonishingly invigorating. The only curious thing is meeting other dealers or clients stark naked. Much breathing in and averting of eyes – English prudishness." Anna Brody



How to gain the Maastricht inch

A fortnight of client dinners, champaign, questionable Dutch canapés and cheese, lots of cheese, can inch, that inevitable toil on a threi inch, that inevitable toil on the waistlines of many a Tefaf exhibitor. But where to gain 1i? Nowhere quite beats Café Sjiek. Rowdy, crowded, full of dealers – get there early and wait for a table while A fortnight of client dinners

nursing one or three fishbowl gin and tonics in this cosy spot near the university. For the full experience, get a bottle of red and a hearty plate of zoervleis (horsemeat stew) washed down with spoonfils of brie. Martin Clist, the director of antiquities specialist Charles Ede, says Sjiek is "without doubt mg favourie place to be in Maastricht... The staff are all

immediately feel like a member of a very special family." Later, louder and the other

ang, their fri

very special family." Later, louder and the other side of the Maas from Sjiek is Cafe Zondag, Shiver on the street with the smokers for the best gossip. It is a favourite of Andreas Pampoulides of Lullo Pampoulides who also loves "the private diming experience at Le Salonard ja deli-restaurant known for its bread, wine and cheese]." Another cheese shop that moonlights as a restaurant is 't Rommedoeke. "Dutch cheese really is amazing, and this is the best shop for it in Maastricht." says Tom Davies, the director of Daniel Katz gallery. "They also do a prety remarkable pop-up restaurant upstains during Telaf." Maastricht, with its winding medieval cobbled streets, is a small city.

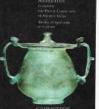
streets, is a small city,

claustrophobic after a fortnight of Tefaf, so dealers are often secretive about their boltholes. "There is one other place - possibly

idyllic spot just outside the city

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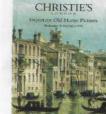






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