‘When TEFAF Showcase was first launched in 2008, I don’t think we had any idea how successful it might be,’ says Ben Janssens, who has chaired the selection committee from the outset. ‘It is very gratifying to see how many Showcase exhibitors have graduated to becoming fully-fledged participants at the fair. As the reputation for TEFAF Showcase has grown, so have the number of high-quality applications to take part in this section as many younger dealerships realise what a strong platform it provides to try out TEFAF Maastricht and give exposure to a highly sophisticated audience of international collectors. Equally, from TEFAF’s perspective it gives an excellent opportunity to view new talent. Collectors love it too – so everybody wins!’

TEFAF Showcase was created to provide newer galleries the opportunity to experience a major international art fair and is held in an area of the fair within TEFAF Antiques. 2020 participants are Caretto & Occhinegro, Galerie Fabienne Fiacre, Plektron Fine Arts, Runjeet Singh and Tafeta.

Caretto & Occhinegro

Founded in 2014 and focused on Flemish, Dutch and German old master painting, Caretto & Occhinegro is the answer to the requirement of evolution that the market is expecting today from the international galleries. Its strategy is focused on the concept of ‘discoveries’ in terms of style, author and content. Unknown works, of private origin, requiring new studies. The deep knowledge of art market dynamics blends with the ability to value a work through a network of direct contacts with major museums of the world and with the most important international art historians. Such choices are dictated by the decision to place the customers at the center of our operations and to discover their requirements as collectors. Selections are made based on specific characteristics, by establishing a close relationship with those who choose to approach the gallery.

Our participation to TEFAF showcase represents the opportunity of a new way of thinking and practice ‘ancient art’. We believe in the necessity of a general readjustment of the public taste, a fundamental change to trigger a systematic renewal of the way of looking at and thinking about historical art. The challenge is to participate to the generation of a new, younger, collector, more eclectic and transversal, but mainly educated collectorship. The knowledge and quality of the artwork make the collector the one who must be at the center of attentions. For these reasons, we conceive our booths as a space that must impress the visitors with ‘quality more than quantity’, elegance and feelings before any other aspects.

Galerie Fabienne Fiacre

Galerie Fabienne Fiacre feels very honored to have been selected to participate at Maastricht Showcase 2020. It will give her gallery a new audience in the world of an international crowd of collectors and museum curators. She will be presenting arresting portraits, including an important rediscovery, the Portrait of Adèle Anthoine-Prélart at the age of eighteen by Hippolyte Flandrin (1809 – 1864).

Fabienne Fiacre particular expertise is in the first half of the 19th century and her desire is to show her personal taste for portraits in general, and more specifically for those emphasizing line over color (Ingres versus Delacroix). Along with the young Madame Cottin, other portraits, paintings and drawings will reflect the influence of Ingres.
The business premises of the gallery in Paris are set in a XVIIIth century hotel particulier in Saint-Germain-des-Prés since 2011. Occasionally, Fabienne Fiacre makes incursions in the Old Masters world and into the 20th century. At TEFAF, a bronze from 17th by Antoine Bourdelle (1861–1929) will synthesise her inclination for powerful sculpture looking back at the Antique.

**PLEKTRON FINE ARTS**

Founded in 2016, Plektron Fine Arts is located near Paradeplatz in the heart of Zurich, Switzerland. With nearly twenty years of experience in the cultural sector and international art world, Ludovic Marock started his career i.a. at Unesco World Heritage Center, Sotheby’s and Christie’s. From 2009–2016, he represented Christie’s premier offices in Zurich as an Antiquities specialist in charge of all consignments for worldwide sales from Continental Europe. During that time, he built up a reputation for his discerning eye and professional knowledge, earning the trust of both private and institutional collectors throughout Europe and beyond. As an archaeologist, Ludovic Marock has also participated hands-on at archaeological excavations on the Cycladic island Delos in Greece together with the French School of Athens and with the Archaeological Institute of the University of Zurich on Monte lato near Palermo in Sicily. At Plektron Fine Arts, Mr Marock now uses the experience and expertise gained from his time working in the world’s major auction houses, to showcase ancient works of art from the Mediterranean region with a particular emphasis on the Greek and Roman periods. With its broad range of objects, Plektron Fine Arts not only successfully focuses on keeping ancient art relevant and pertinent, but also adheres to the highest standard of ethical trading, being aware of the importance of impeccable provenance and standards. Plektron Fine Arts is a young, dynamic gallery making a significant and exciting impact on the international art scene.

**RUNJEET SINGH**

Runjeet Singh entered the art world as a collector of Asian arms and armour in the age of 20 in 1999. After many years as a collector, he dabbled as an amateur dealer for a few years before taking the plunge, leaving his full-time job as a civil servant and becoming a professional dealer in 2014. Runjeet has a special passion for his discerning eye and professional knowledge, earning the trust of both private and institutional collectors throughout Europe and beyond. As an archaeologist, Ludovic Marock has also participated hands-on at archaeological excavations on the Cycladic island Delos in Greece together with the French School of Athens and with the Archaeological Institute of the University of Zurich on Monte lato near Palermo in Sicily. At Plektron Fine Arts, Mr Marock now uses the experience and expertise gained from his time working in the world’s major auction houses, to showcase ancient works of art from the Mediterranean region with a particular emphasis on the Greek and Roman periods. With its broad range of objects, Plektron Fine Arts not only successfully focuses on keeping ancient art relevant and pertinent, but also adheres to the highest standard of ethical trading, being aware of the importance of impeccable provenance and standards. Plektron Fine Arts is a young, dynamic gallery making a significant and exciting impact on the international art scene.

Born in England, and of Indian (Sikh) heritage, he feels his background does give him a personal connection to the material he deals in, though he states it is not an interest or passion you cannot develop or appreciate coming from other backgrounds. Runjeet has a special passion for Indian, Islamic, Tibetan and Chinese material from the 10th–19th centuries and deals by appointment from his home in Warwickshire, though he regularly commutes to London. He likes to use his time hunting for rare, unusual, and fine objects with good provenance, and holds tri-annual public exhibitions to showcase his discoveries in London, Paris and New York. Runjeet has worked tirelessly to assemble a group of show-stopping items, highlights of which include: a 17th century blue-grey jade horse-head dagger, made at the height of the Mughal empire in India under the rule of Shah Jahan (1592 – 1666), who most famously commissioned the Taj Mahal which entombs his son of Shah Jahan (1592 – 1666), who most famously commissioned the Taj Mahal which entombs his wife Mumtaz Mahal. In his study of the Windsor Padshah-rana, Stuart Cary Welch observes that in a darbar scene by Balchand, Dara-Shikoh eldest son of Shah Jahan is portrayed wearing a horse-hilted dagger and comments that during the reign of Shah Jahan the wearing of animal-hilted daggers was exceedingly rare.

**TAFETA**

Tafeta is a London-based gallery specializing in 20th-century and contemporary African art. Established in 2015, TAFETA is located in Fitzrovia, London, with a project space in Lagos, Nigeria. The Gallery remains one of the leading purveyors of some of the most important 20th century artists of African descent, and its contemporary program actively seeks to discover and represent emerging to mid-career artists in Africa and its diaspora. With a background in financial services, founder, Ayo Adeyinka has, over time, gained recognition as a leading specialist in contemporary African art. A seasoned cultural entrepreneur, Adeyinka has been involved in a number of notable contemporary African art projects over the years. The presentation by TAFETA features multi-media artworks by two young Nigerian artists, Babajide Olatunji (b. 1989) and Niyi Olagunju (b.1981). In the case of these two artists their practise speaks to contemporary issues, but yet draws inspiration from artistic lineages rooted in traditional African art. The prospect of showing at Maastricht represents an unparalleled opportunity for the artists to connect with a broad base of international collectors, including public collections and institutions.