

Costermans

Since 1839

An exceptional House resolutely focused on the future

Founded in 1839, Costermans is a big name in the world of antique art in Brussels and far beyond. It keeps a wealth of expertise passed down from generation to generation alive in a listed mansion that beautifully showcases Belgium's artistic elegance. As a member of the largest international organisations, it also actively contributes to the enhancement and promotion of European heritage.

Costermans remains one of the last old antique shops on the Sablon to continue a family tradition while at the same time firmly committed to innovation. The combination of exceptional furniture and equally unique objects from the 18th century, Flemish painting and a resolutely contemporary welcome makes this gallery an absolute reference in the world of European art de vivre and Fine Art.

The House is reinventing itself more than ever, reinforcing its timeless character while focusing on developing its own universe dedicated to art and the shared experience of it. Arnaud Jaspar-Costermans and his sister Valérie, who have been at the helm of this family adventure since 2010, are now transforming the gallery into a place for encounters, discoveries and shared emotions, in harmony with the spirit of the neighbourhood.

A prestigious dynasty

In the heart of the Grand Sablon in Brussels, Maison Costermans has been a symbol of one of the most prestigious dynasties of antique dealers in Europe since 1839. Since its early days, the House founded by Louis and Jean Costermans has been renowned for its talent in seamlessly combining tradition and innovation. The two brothers, art smiths and interior designers, won the gold medal at the 1847 World's Fair in Brussels with their exceptional creations. In 1850, they patented their stove "Le Merveilleux", a major industrial success that allowed them to diversify and expand the family business. In the decades that followed, the Costermans House enriched its repertoire with enamel, bronze and decorative art from Europe, for both private individuals and the Belgian aristocracy.

After the Second World War, the Costermans family settled on the Grand Sablon, where, as pioneers in their field, they were the driving force behind the neighbourhood's later reputation as a hotspot for art and antiques in Brussels. The former Chastel de la Howarderie mansion, where Costermans has been located since 1952, still boasts four panels of Chinese wallpaper with a motif of exotic flowers and birds, made in 1783. They are precious testimonies to the history and exquisite style of this place.

Under the influence of Arnaud Jaspar-Costermans and his sister Valérie, who represent the sixth generation, the gallery is developing a strong identity that focuses on French and European furniture from the 18th and 19th centuries and on exceptional art objects, but also with sufficient space for the masterpieces of the Flemish and Dutch masters of the 16th and 17th centuries, a personal passion of the owner.

The development of an Old Masters department illustrates this ambition to introduce a new, carefully selected range, representative of the best of European art history. The presence of pieces by Jan Brueghel the Elder, Joos de Momper, Marten Ryckaert and Cornelis Biltius makes Costermans an unmissable address for discerning collectors and demanding enthusiasts. Drawing on its renowned expertise, Huis Costermans offers its international clientele personalised guidance and guarantees impeccable quality.

Costermans is also an active member of the Royal Chamber of Antique Dealers and Art Dealers of Belgium and the French Syndicat National des Antiquaires. The House is also affiliated with CINOA and ROCAD, which work tirelessly to promote Belgian heritage on the international stage. The House regularly participates in major European fairs and salons (FAB Paris, BRAFA, etc.), demonstrating its

tireless commitment and ambition to maintain a high-quality collection and art de vivre for six generations.

The future of a unique business

Huis Costermans is reinventing itself more than ever, reinforcing its timeless character while focusing on developing its own universe dedicated to art and the shared experience of it. The recent opening of Café Costermans in the courtyard of the mansion on the Sablon is a wonderful illustration of the desire to make this address a vibrant meeting place for everyone. This new space offers visitors, collectors and interested parties the opportunity to soak up the unique atmosphere of the neighbourhood and discover art in a warm, welcoming setting.

Ami Paris, the Parisian clothing brand, will soon be moving into the ground floor of the building on the Grand Sablon. This also confirms Costermans' fervent desire to make this House a real destination.

This new direction does not mean that Costermans is ending its story as an antique dealer, but rather that the House is now anchoring its expertise in the present and broadening its focus. It is evolving from a specialised gallery into a fully-fledged cultural meeting place and a reference point within Fine Art, while at the same time appealing to a new audience. This dynamic is reflected in various strategic and concrete areas.

Starting this autumn, the opening of new spaces will be an additional step in this planned modernisation. The spaces and display windows facing the street will soon be occupied by a major Parisian brand for chic and contemporary fashion, while Huis Costermans itself will present its range on two floors of the gallery, each covering around 150 square metres.

This redesign includes the addition of movable partitions in fine wood for hanging paintings. This creates opportunities for modular and modern scenography and the organisation of changing exhibitions that put the exceptional works in the spotlight, as this remains Costermans' expertise. This flexibility demonstrates a perfect knowledge of the rules of contemporary scenography, essential for any great expert.

These new projects are intended to transform the gallery into a unique place where art is experienced together, in a different way than in a purely commercial setting. In this way, the House keeps the demanding antique dealer's style alive, while adapting its presentation, education and mediation to a contemporary audience. Costermans is now more than ever a living institution, firmly rooted in tradition but also resolutely focused on the future.

In time, Costermans will offer a complete experience, in which the history of the house, the quality of the works and the modernity of the reception form a coherent whole. This new identity consolidates the House's position. It not only continues to embody excellence in craftsmanship in the world of antiques and fine arts, but also positions itself as a laboratory for heritage innovation, at the crossroads of targeted expertise, open-mindedness, transfer and international appeal.

For more information:

Maison Costermans
Grote Zavel 5
1000 Brussel

www.costermans-antiques.com