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SATELLITE FAIRS

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Boutique Tribal Fairs Face Off in Competing Time Slots

MADISON ANCIENT & TRIBAL ART MAY 10-16

Just around the corner from AOA, 14 additional dealers will sprawl throughout the Arader Gallery, a four-level space located in a Beaux Arts town house, for MATA's second official iteration. Dealer James Stephenson runs the boutique fair with an emphasis on variety and quality. He also seeks to cultivate a salonlike feel that gives buyers "more face time with dealers." That formula has attracted some serious newcomers this time around, including longtime Oceanic art dealer Wayne Heathcote from London; Thomas Murray, an Indonesian sculpture and textiles specialist from the Bay Area; Brussels-based dealer Joaquin Pecci; and Pierre Loos, also based in Brussels and founder of the highly regarded Belgian tribal-art fair BRUNEAF. Highlights include a Congolese Songye Kifwebe mask, circa 1900, and a Lefem Society figure by 19th-century Cameroonian artist Ateu Atsa (\$65,000), both courtesy of London dealer Kevin Conru.



AOA NEW YORK MAY 10-14

A consortium of 22 dealers specializing in tribal art and artifacts from Africa, Oceania, and the Americas come together for this third annual expo, which is favored for its intimate approach. Ten exhibitors, such as Visser Gallery, of Brussels, return to the Fletcher-Sinclair mansion on the Upper East Side. They join first-timers Ben Hunter, of London, and Marc Assayag, a collector-turned-dealer from Montreal whose offerings feature a 19th-century *yipwon* (hook figure) from Papua New Guinea. An additional eight dealers — Pace Primitive, Arte Primitivo, and Alaska on Madison among them — are hosting special exhibitions and programming in nearby galleries. AOA urges its dealers to focus on objects with significant exhibition history and provenance, says Sarah Getto, who codirects the expo with Maureen Zarember, of Tambaran Gallery. The fair is intent on appealing to the modern and contemporary collector as well; Zarember herself will exhibit a figurative 19th-century Zande knife finial from the Democratic Republic of the Congo — an angular carving that looks like it could have inspired Picasso, priced between \$200,000 and \$300,000. — RACHEL WOLFF



A 19th-century Zande knife finial from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

A wood, copper, and iron Kota reliquary figure from Belgian dealer Adrian Schlag