



SPECIAL THEME: LUXURIES

Art is a journey of discoveries

TEXT: BERTHE VAN DEN HURK | PHOTOS: DOUWES FINE ART

“Art is important in human existence; it is inspiring not only to have beautiful things around you, it also stimulates professionalism in one’s own discipline,” says Evert Douwes, owner of Douwes Fine Art. “I believe that art gives energy, and it is for everyone.”

Douwes has the right to speak: he is the sixth generation leading Douwes Fine Art. His ancestors founded the company in 1770, which makes it the oldest gallery of its kind in Europe. They began with the restoration of paintings, furniture and boats. While the Douwes gained reputation, artists asked for their own paintings to be offered for sale; artists such as Leickert and Springer. Douwes: “To this day we believe that timeless, quality art should be affordable.”

The experience of history

Douwes Fine Art does not only see history – they have lived it. They have transferred their knowledge to future generations. “At the time the artists were



Evert Sr. (middle), Evert Jr. (left) and Evert Anthony (right) – 5th, 6th, and 7th generation Douwes Fine Art. (Born: 1928, 1953, 1992)

categorized as modern. Nowadays we offer a collection which consists five centuries of paintings, works on paper and sculptures.” The art comes from all over the world; they deal in old Dutch masters (including original Rembrandt prints), early Flemish, French and Russian works, modern art and non-European art (including Africanists and contemporary Chinese). According to Douwes finding good quality art is an exciting journey of

discoveries. “Especially when the restoration process gives important insights, and has amazing results. The advantage of having our own restoration department for museums, clients and ourselves is paramount to our success.”

Living the art

During its 244 years of existence, Douwes Fine Art has gained a huge amount of knowledge and expertise in art. Douwes: “We have a library with a half a million photos of paintings. It is the foundation of our knowledge, which is constantly challenged and asked for.” According to Douwes they are very active at international art fairs and organize public exhibitions as well. The company has spread from Amsterdam to London, and recently also Hong Kong. “The passion, sharing expertise, traveling, but foremost our personal contact with people make this a unique profession worthwhile. It is a treasure hunt every day.”

www.douwesfineart.com