

Tefaf Maastricht highlights — Van der Helst and Artemisia Gentilisci

An exhibition of Dutch 17th-century group portraits is a canny way to show off the range of objects at the fair

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A far more flamboyant personality is the subject of one of Artemisia Gentileschi's rare portraits, a similarly dated bravura full length of the splendidly outfitted French military engineer Antoine De Ville, who appears to wear the silver initials of the artist around his neck. Anyone thinking that black was chosen for sobriety should bear in mind that this most difficult of dyes was also the most expensive. Here the sitter's crisp white chemise spills from the slashes in his doublet and sleeves (Robilant + Voena, \$3m-\$4m).

Upcoming fairs and auctions



The Medici and Westminster Pietre Dure Table

Robilant+Voena are bringing a table designed by Giorgio Vasari for Francesco I de' Medici in c1568-77 to the fair this year. It has been sold just four times in its long life, most recently in the 1970s. The tabletop is made exclusively of hardstones, which were more difficult to obtain and to cut than coloured marbles, making it a very rare example of Renaissance pietre dure. The only comparable table was commissioned for Philip II of Spain in 1587, and is now in the Prado.

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