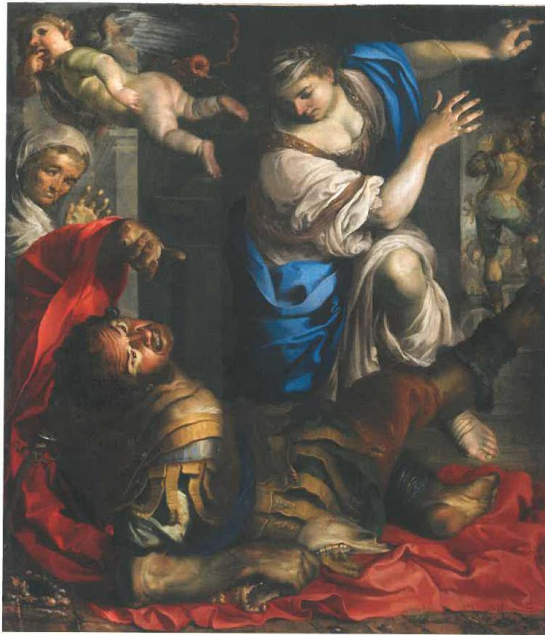




## Sentimental Journeys

The Tefaf in Maastricht is a place of passages, literary passages. Each work testifies to happiness great and small, to the achievements and catastrophes of human culture. Before the fair begins, we recount the stories that such artworks bring to mind.

There have been always collectors, and they have always liked to meet and trade. As here in Adriaen van Stalbeem's "Collector's Cabinet", presented at the Tefaf by De Jonckheere.



**DANGEROUS LIAISONS**

If only Samson hadn't gotten so tangled up with Delilah! The secret to his strength was his hair: sheered – and blinded – the Old Testament giant was powerless. But things haven't gotten that far in this unusual representation by Bernardino Mei from around 1657, in which his locks are bound fast, but he is able to free himself. Galerie G. Sarti of Paris, specialist for Italian art from the 13th through 18th centuries, is exhibiting the painting (price upon request).



**ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS**

Open Sesame! That is about the only thing that this perfect piece of furniture is missing: a secret command with which it magically opens. Yet, Koloman Moser, the ingenious Viennese designer from the turn of the twentieth century, was in no need of the magic powers that Ali Baba possessed in "One Thousand and One Nights." In 1902/03 he created an entire interior for the Vienna home of Hans and Gerta Eisler von Terramare, from which this wonderfully handcrafted lingerie closet stems, and which Galerie Bel Etage is offering for 500,000 euros.

Images: G. Sarti Gallery, Paris; bel etage, Vienna; Rossi & Rossi, London



**THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA**

While son Karim is discovering the London theater scene and his own bi-sexuality, father Haroon supplies frustrated middle-class housewives with a comforting dose of Far Eastern spirituality at salon events. The mixing of cultures was the theme of Hanif Kureishi's 1990 debut novel. One can well imagine how Haroon might have brought along this 94-centimeter-tall Vajradhara, created in 16th century Nepal or Tibet, to illustrate his lectures. Though to do so, he would have had to invest 2 million dollars for the punched, gilt copper figure at Rossi & Rossi.