

COLNAGHI

PRESS RELEASE

FETISH

Colnaghi New York— November 13, 2025 – January 16, 2025

Colnaghi New York is pleased to announce its **upcoming exhibition** *Fetish*, the second in a series of collaborations with Carlo Bella (formerly Pace African and Oceanic Art; now independent). Following *Power Figures* in May, this exhibition continues the gallery's initiative to place African and European masterpieces into direct art-historical dialogue through a rigorously researched thematic lens.

African and European Masterpieces in Conversation

Colnaghi New York is partnering with Carlo Bella for its second in a series of exhibitions putting African and European masterpieces in conversation, *Fetish*.

Fetish aims to compare the practices of manufacture and worship of devotional sculpture and paintings from the European and African traditions, focusing on the role of the artist as the intermediary between the human and divine, the ecstatic nature of Christian mystic and polytheistic African ritual and divine conception, and the focus on the modification of the human body: through martyrdom and the Crucifixion in European tradition and the practices of ritual scarification in the African.

Materialising the Divine

The exhibition brings together European devotional paintings and bronzes with ritual figures from Central and West Africa, showing how spirituality is expressed through crafted form.

In European art, the body conveys divine suffering and salvation. Works include Luca Cambiaso's *Flagellation of Christ* and his drawing *Saint Catherine Rescued from the Wheel*, Luigi Amidani's *Saint Sebastian*, Nicolás Enríquez's *Dolorosa*, François Girardon's *Marsyas*, and Guglielmo della Porta's *Crucified Christ*.

The African works represent a range of carving traditions from Central and West Africa. These include a Teke *buti* figure from the Republic of the Congo, and figures by Baule, Senufo, Luba, Bakongo, Hamba, Kongo, Lumbo, Maou, and Losso artists, made from materials such as wood, glass, cowrie shells, metal, and organic matter. Together they demonstrate the variety of forms and techniques through which belief is made material.

Exhibition Information

Title: *Fetish*

Dates: November 13, 2025 – January 16, 2025

Location: Colnaghi New York, 23 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10065

Opening Reception: Thursday, November 13, 6–8pm

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am–6pm

For inquiries and to make preview appointments: Mickal Pokorny Adler — +1 (917) 388-3825 — mickal@colnaghi.com

Website: <https://www.colnaghi.com/>



Guglielmo della Porta, *Crucified Christ*, gilt bronze, 20 × 28 cm (7 7/8 × 11 1/8 in).



Senufo Artist, *Figure (Kafigeledjo)*, wood, fabric, encrusted patina, 94 cm (37 in), Ivory Coast, late 19th–early 20th century.