

Laffanour Galerie Downtown / Paris
is participating in DESIGN MIAMI / BASEL 2024
and unveiling a selection of exceptional pieces created by
JEAN PROUVÉ | CHARLOTTE PERRIAND | JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS | SIMONE PROUVÉ

From 10 to 16 June 2024
Hall 1 Süd, Messe Basel, Switzerland
Booth G05

On the occasion of the 18th edition of the international fair Design Miami/Basel, Downtown gallery is showcasing a collection of iconic furniture pieces by masters of modernist design. A standout among these is a rare wall sideboard by Charlotte Perriand, known as the «Bloc» sideboard. This exceptional piece, a treasure from the Steph Simon archives, is one of the few special orders made between 1956 and 1961. The sideboard, a six-meter-long rectangle, features four striking dark gray sliding aluminum doors with «diamond-tipped» detailing. Inside, it reveals multiple compartments with glass shelves. Until now, this piece has remained in its original collection.



Charlotte Perriand (1903 - 1999)
Bloc sideboard, 1960



Simone Prouvé (1931)
Tapestry, ca. 1965

Simone Prouvé's tapestry, crafted around 1965, is a noteworthy highlight at the Basel exhibition. As the daughter of Jean Prouvé, the visionary French architect and post-war designer, Simone honed her weaving skills in Paris, Sweden at Alice Lund's workshop, and Finland under the tutelage of Dora Jung. Steeped in her father's creative environment, she often collaborated with Charlotte Perriand on textiles for some of Perriand's furniture pieces showcased by Galerie Steph Simon, as well as with other prominent architects. Among her many achievements, Simone Prouvé created a significant tapestry for the UN headquarters' tribune in Geneva in 1967.

The monumental tapestry, revealed by the Downtown gallery, exemplifies her expertise in traditional weaving techniques while highlighting her affinity for abstract compositions. Her entire archival collection is now preserved in the esteemed collections of the Centre Georges Pompidou.

The gallery is also featuring the «Présidence» desk by Jean Prouvé, originating from the collection of a post-war Reconstruction architect. Acquired from Galerie Steph Simon, this desk, with its white lacquered pedestal, remained in its original collection until recently. Furthermore, a pequi wood sofa designed by the Brazilian designer José Zanine Caldas adds to the refined scenography of the Downtown gallery. Formed under the esteemed architect Oscar Niemeyer, José Zanine Caldas established his wooden furniture workshop, «Moveis Artísticos Z,» in São Paulo in 1949. Sensitive to the post-war living conditions of his people, he endeavored to create accessible pieces while minimizing material waste.



José Zanine Caldas (1919–2001)
Sofa (pequi wood), ca. 1970



Jean Prouvé (1901–1984)
Présidence Desk, ca. 1956

USEFUL INFORMATION :

PREVIEW DAY

Monday, 10 June 2024

Collectors Preview: 12 pm - 6 pm

VIP Preview: 6 pm - 8 pm

PUBLIC SHOW DAYS

Tuesday, 11 and Wednesday, 12 June : 10 am - 7 pm

Thursday, 13 - Saturday, 15 June : 12 pm - 6 pm

Sunday, 16 June : 11 am - 6 pm



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ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN GALLERY

Since it opened in the early 1980s, Galerie Downtown, founded by François Laffanour, has been exploring and exhibiting the furniture of 20th-century architects, helping to rehabilitate and promote the masters of post-war architecture.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, designers and architects brought a new conception to the art of furnishing, dictated by a need for freedom and efficiency, in the service of a new art of living in an era of technological and scientific, but also sociological, demographic and social development.

Galerie Downtown also holds the archives of Galerie Steph Simon, which from 1956 to 1974 represented and edited furniture by Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve and Isamu Noguchi.



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