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Press Release

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FIRST EXHIBITION EVER DEVOTED TO FRENCH MODERNIST

JOSEPH-ANDRE MOTTE TO OPEN AT DESIGN MIAMI/BASEL 2011

Design Miami/Basel Booth G07

June 14-18, 2011

Press preview June 13, 3-6 pm

For **Design Miami/Basel, June 14-18, 2011**, **Demisch Danant** will present the first exhibition ever devoted to the work of **Joseph André Motte** (b. France, 1925), one of the most innovative and highly influential figures of post-war French design, whose contributions have until now remained one of the best kept secrets of Modernism. The Demisch Danant presentation will bring together more than twenty rare examples of Motte's work, most never before exhibited publicly.



Low Table for Public Commission, 1964



J. A. Motte was a member of the young generation of French designers that emerged immediately following World War II and included Pierre Guariche, Michel Mortier, René Jean Caillette, Alain Richard, Pierre Paulin, Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq, among others. Having trained in Marcel Gascoïn's workshop, Motte soon rose to the top of this new "school" of French design whose mission was to refurnish French homes in a resolutely contemporary style. His prolific work used all the new materials that industry made available, and he was a pioneer in many areas. His brilliant career was marked by prestigious commissions (including the Orly and Roissy airports, the Musée du Louvre, and the Préfecture du Val d'Oise), and he was recognized with the most distinguished honors of the era.

Within an early 1960s-inspired architectural setting, the design of the exhibition will be structured around the contrast between interior/exterior and public/private space.

- Rattan furniture from the early 1950s, with a pair of the iconic 1949 *Tripod* armchairs and the less well known but equally successful 1952 *Catherine* armchair, as well as a very rare and elegant 1953 rattan bed.

- A 1958 interior with a collection of furnishings that were being produced at that time in series by Charron for furniture, Steiner for seating and Disderot for lighting fixtures, notably the luminous 1958 coffee table and the iconic 770 armchair.

- Finally, unique pieces made for a public commission in 1965.

Demisch Danant exhibition will give a glimpse of the extraordinary diversity of a designer who worked outside conventional rules.

About Demisch Danant

Demisch Danant was founded in 2005 by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant after already five years of collaboration together. The gallery is based in New York with a presence in Paris.

Demisch Danant specializes in twentieth-century European design with an emphasis on the late 1950s through the 1980s. The gallery features the work of Maria Pergay, Pierre Paulin, Joseph Andre Motte, Pierre Guariche, Pentagon and others. The gallery also engages in a series of exhibitions concerning the intersection between architecture, design and art, including the work of Felice Varini and Krijn de Koning.

