

## DEMISCH DANANT

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### FIRST U.S. EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO DESIGNS OF THE FRENCH MOBILIER NATIONAL TO GO ON VIEW IN NEW YORK CITY

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**New York, NY...** On November 8, 2011, Demisch Danant gallery will unveil the first American exhibition devoted exclusively to the 20<sup>th</sup> century furniture created under the Mobilier National - an institution of the République française conceived to support and promote the highest levels of beauty, originality and technical innovation in French design. **Mobilier National** will present more than 20 rare examples of furniture realized under this extraordinary program between 1964 and 1981, including Olivier Mourgue's *Montreal* chair and table, a selection of Pierre Paulin

designs for the Palais de l'Elysée, an important President's Desk by Henri Lesetre and a Chaise *Grains de cafe* by Francois Xavier and Claude Lalanne (shown above).

The exhibition will remain on view through February 2012 at the gallery's New York space in the West Chelsea arts district of Manhattan.

Dating back to the 17th century, the Mobilier National has been responsible for the decoration of the Republic's many official government spaces at home and abroad. In 1964, the Atelier de Recherche et Creation (ARC) was created under the Mobilier National to promote a uniquely French *contemporary* style by engaging and supporting the work of French designers and artists. Since the 1960s, the ARC has collaborated on the creation of over 500 prototypes for furniture and lighting, including many objects now viewed as icons of modernity. Pierre Paulin and Olivier

Mourgue were the first to participate in the Mobilier National's ARC program in the 1960s. They were followed over ensuing decades by such significant figures as Elizabeth Garouste and Mattia Bonetti, and Martin Szekely in the 1980s, and the Bourroullec brothers Ronan and Erwan

in the 1990s. Today, Mobilier National's ARC continues to promote extraordinary artistic creativity in France, providing leading designers and new talents alike the resources necessary to experiment with new techniques and materials.



Olivier Mourgue, Montreal chairs, 1967



Salon d' Honneur, Expo '67, Montreal

The exhibition at Demisch Danant focuses primarily upon the important commissions that emerged during the ARC's first years. In 1967 the Mobilier National requested Olivier Mourgue to design the seats and tables for the French Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal. The organization commissioned Pierre Paulin to furnish the private apartments of President George Pompidou at the Palais de l'Elysée in 1969, and for the Exposition Universal in Osaka in 1970, where Paulin's now famous *Amphis* sofa was unveiled. In these cases, the ARC-sponsored prototypes gave way to editions through commercial entities, allowing the vision and talent of French designers to emanate beyond the nation's borders, influencing design internationally: these curved and softened objects heralded the beginning of a broader cultural design shift away from the more functional, hard-edged and streamlined Modernist aesthetic of the early 1960s, and toward an organicism still powerful today.

### 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.

For Design Miami 2011, Demisch Danant will present a solo exhibition on the work of Pierre Paulin, one of the major early contributors to the Mobilier National. The Demisch Danant presentation will exhibit over 15 rare pieces, including the *Amphis* sofa designed under the Mobilier National.