

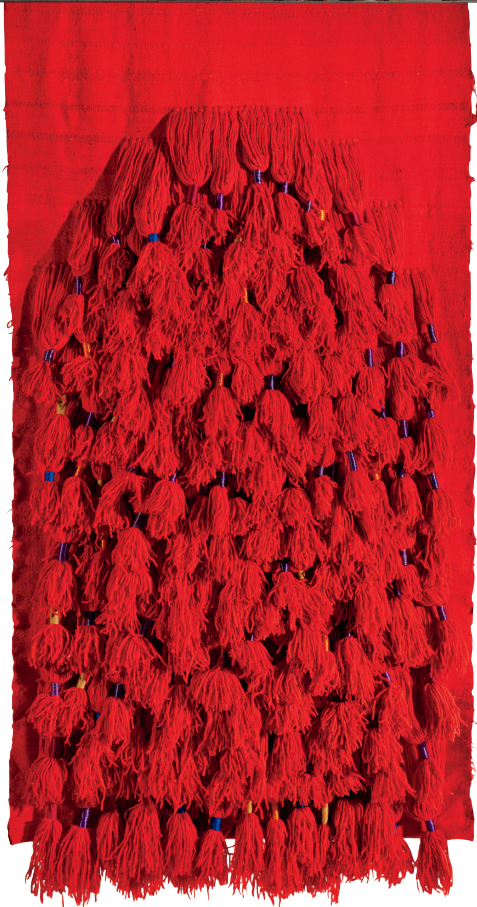
Demisch Danant

At their New York gallery, *Suzanne Demisch* and *Stephane Danant* shine a light on undersung French masters

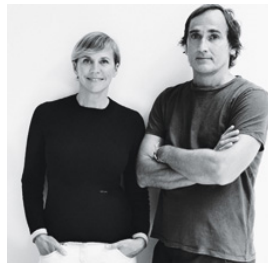


PIERRE PAULIN'S ÉLYSÉE BOOKCASE, 1971.

A BLACKENED-STEEL-AND-MARQUETRY SOFA BY MARIA PERGAY, COMMISSIONED IN 2009.



WOOL PRAYER RUG BY SHEILA HICKS, 1972.



SPECIALTY: Twentieth-century French design, mostly from the 1950s to the '70s.
BEST KNOWN FOR: Highlighting stylemakers who have gone off the radar—such as '60s cult figure Maria Pergay, whom Suzanne Demisch tracked down in Morocco in 2004, using the yellow pages.
RESEARCH AID: Back issues of *Connaissance des Arts*, *Maison & Jardin*, *Maison Française*, and *Plaisir de France*.

VIRTUE: Patience. "With Joseph-André Motte, it took seven years of talking with his family before they gave me access to his archives," Stephane Danant says. "Then I spent another year making weekly visits to his widow to document the images."
LATEST PURSUIT: Postwar talent Étienne Fermigier. "He was so prolific, creating everything from lighting and furniture to cars," Demisch says. "But there's not a lot around."
LUCKY FIND: A rare Pierre Paulin Élysée bookcase, modular Plexiglas shelving identical to one commissioned in 1971 for then-president Georges Pompidou's apartment. Danant found the piece at a flea market and eventually authenticated it.
RESEARCHING: American fiber artist Sheila Hicks's collaborations with Mexican architect Luis Barragán. "Where are they? What are they? We don't really know," says Demisch. "But she does."
IN THE WORKS: A partnership with the Paulin family business to produce some never-realized concepts that date from the end of the designer's glorious career. demischdanant.com —HANNAH MARTIN

FROM TOP: THIERRY DEPAGNE/COURTESY OF DEMISCH DANANT (3); PAMELA HANSON/COURTESY OF DEMISCH DANANT