

# DEMISCH DANANT

## DEMISCH DANANT TO EXHIBIT RARE WORKS OF 1970s AND 80s FRENCH DESIGN IN THE GALLERY'S FIRST PRESENTATION AT TEFAF MAASTRICHT

### *Pierre Paulin, Maria Pergay, and Sheila Hicks*

Demisch Danant  
Booth 610  
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Pierre Paulin. Pair of Armchairs, 1984



Maria Pergay. *Lit Tapis Volant / Flying Carpet Daybed*, 1968

New York, NY...**Demisch Danant** is pleased to announce the gallery's first participation in **TEFAF Maastricht** with ***Pierre Paulin, Maria Pergay, and Sheila Hicks***. Through this selection of exceptional works created in France in the 1970s and 1980s, the gallery will explore the inventiveness and unique penchant for material exploration that marks the contributions of three titans of postwar design.

On view from March 13-22, the exhibition will include significant designs conceived by the late **Pierre Paulin** for two landmark presidential commissions, as well as iconic early works by **Maria Pergay** and three works by renowned Paris-based American artist **Sheila Hicks**.

On a 1983 visit to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, President François Mitterand became fascinated with works designed by **Pierre Paulin** and fabricated by the Mobilier National – objects that expressed the designer's burgeoning interest in traditional materials and woodworking techniques. As a result of the visit, Paulin received a watershed commission to create furniture for the Office of the President. Demisch Danant will present three chairs from the Mobilier National series, each of which features palmette marquetry detailing and caned seats. Most significantly, the Demisch Danant exhibition will include an extraordinary pair of rare lacquered armchairs designed for President Mitterand in 1984 and a signed example of the Élysee Bookcase designed for President George Pompidou in 1971. Both are likely the only examples outside the permanent collection of the Mobilier National.

**Maria Pergay** presented her first collection of stainless steel furniture in 1968 and is renowned as a pioneer of the material, one of the first postwar designers to adapt it for domestic furnishings and transform it into a sensual asset. At Maastricht, Demisch Danant will present Pergay's seminal *Flying Carpet Daybed* (1968), the designer's first entirely stainless steel work and still her most iconic. Additionally, a pair of lounge chairs from 1970 will be presented alongside recent Pergay creations. Among these are the *Marquetry Desk* (2005) in stainless steel with intricate marquetry detailing and references to the buckle and ribbon motifs that have been present throughout Pergay's prolific career.

Finally, Demisch Danant is proud to present three works by **Sheila Hicks**, including the large-scale tapestry *Le Palmier* (1984-85). Following the traditional weaving techniques of the Aubusson workshops, *Le Palmier* is a delicate study of swaying palm fronds in a kaleidoscope of colors. Hicks' mastery as a colorist, and her adeptness with composition, are evident in this monumental work. Based on a larger tapestry Hicks created for King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, examples from this edition are also in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

### About the Artists

**Pierre Paulin** (1927–2009) is perhaps best known for his innovative designs for Artifort of the 1960s– the famed Mushroom Chair (1959), the Ribbon Chair (1965) and the Tongue Chair (1968). He is widely regarded as one of the most significant designers of the 20th century. Though he was clearly influenced by his German roots as well as the work of early modernists, Paulin has said he was greatly inspired by the work of George Nelson and Charles Eames and the significance of the social component of modern design. In 1970, Paulin was invited by the Mobilier National to decorate the private apartments of George Pompidou in the Palais de l'Élysée, and to furnish the office of François Mitterrand in 1984. Today, Paulin's designs are found in the collections of major museums across the world such as MoMA in New York, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, and London's Victoria and Albert Museum.



Sheila Hicks. *Le Palmier*, 1984-85

Born in Moldavia, **Maria Pergay** (b. 1930) opened her first shop in the Place des Vosges in 1960 and designed small objects in silver and special pieces on commission for fashion houses including Christian Dior and Jacques Heim. In 1968, Maria Pergay presented her first collection of stainless steel furniture at Galerie Maison et Jardin, including the now-iconic Flying Carpet Daybed (1968) and Wave Bench (1968). This seminal exhibition established Pergay as one of the most innovative French furniture designers of her time, a visionary who almost single-handedly transformed stainless steel from a commercial industrial material into a principal component of modern furniture. Pergay has exhibited internationally and has embarked upon significant commissions for Pierre Cardin, The World Trade Center in Brussels, the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia, and other esteemed clients. In her 84th year, after a half-century of creation, Pergay continues to surprise both herself and her collectors.

Born in Hastings, Nebraska in 1934, Sheila Hicks has lived and worked in Paris since 1964. After studying fine art at Yale under the tutelage of Josef Albers, Sheila Hicks established herself as one of the most innovative textile artists of the 20th century. Hicks is renowned for her painterly approach to textile design and an ability to craft environments through the unlikely medium of fiber. She has collaborated with prominent architects including Luis Barragán, Ricardo Legorreta and SOM. Her work defies categorization, simultaneously addressing several related mediums including painting, sculpture, design and installation. Hicks' work is included in such collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre George Pompidou, Paris; and the Art Institute of Chicago. A solo exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London and a large-scale installation at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris are currently on view.

### About Demisch Danant

Demisch Danant was founded in 2005 by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant. The gallery specializes in twentieth century French design with an emphasis on the late 1950s through the 1970s and represents the work of Maria Pergay, Pierre Paulin, Joseph André Motte, Pierre Guariche, Michel Boyer, Philippon & Lecoq and René Jean Caillette. Curated exhibitions on historical work are presented within environments that reference architecture and interiors of the era.

The gallery also features exhibitions concerning the intersection of architecture, design and art, including the work of Sheila Hicks, Felice Varini, Krijn de Koning.

Demisch Danant is dedicated to research and scholarship on French design and has published and authored monographs including, *Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq* and *Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010*. Current projects include a comprehensive monograph on seminal designer Joseph André Motte.

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