

**For Immediate Release**

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**WITH *PUBLIC COMMISSION*, DEMISCH DANANT WILL BRING RARE FRENCH WORKS FROM “LES TRENTES GLORIEUSES” TO DESIGN/MIAMI**

**Rare and Unique Objects Created in the 1960s and 1970s by Joseph André Motte, Pierre Paulin, Sheila Hicks, and Pierre Sabatier**

***Public Commission*  
Design Miami/  
December 3–7, 2014**

Demisch Danant  
Booth G10  
Meridian Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami Beach

New York, NY... **Demisch Danant** is pleased to present ***Public Commission***, an exhibition dedicated to works created in the 1960s and 1970s for key public spaces in France by designers and artists who defined the era. On view in the gallery’s booth (G10) at Design/Miami, the exhibition features rare and unique objects conceived by French designers **Joseph André Motte** and **Pierre Paulin**, French artist **Pierre Sabatier**, and Paris-based American artist **Sheila Hicks**.

*Public Commission* is the latest in an ongoing series of shows organized by Demisch Danant to explore the extraordinary innovations of “Les Trentes Glorieuses,” the three-decade period following the Second World War when France was the site of explosive innovation in modern design and public architecture. Significant public projects, including airports and city halls, granted architects and designers new territory for experimentation with form and materials, and outlets for expressing new modern ambitions. *Public Commission* specifically spotlights the period, beginning in the early 1960s, in which architects began collaborating with young designers.

Industrial and interior designer **Joseph André Motte (1925 – 2013)** received the most prestigious public décor commissions of this period, including Orly Airport (1961) and la Maison de la radio/ORTF (1962). *Public Commission* features a unique desk designed by

Motte for a commission in Dunkerque, as well as a pair of *Luge Chairs* (1966) commissioned by the City Hall of Grenoble.

Artist **Pierre Sabatier (1925 – 2003)**, a sculptor best known for his monumental metal sculptures, was a key figure in the French postwar movement “Mur Vivant” that advocated for the integration of art into modern public architecture. Many of his best-known sculptures and installations were made possible by new postwar laws requiring that a percentage of construction budgets be dedicated to original works of art. Sabatier worked closely with Joseph André Motte on important large-scale public commissions in France, including several City Hall projects. *Public Commission* presents the artist’s *Salamander* (c. 1968), a sculpture made of tin over worked brass that is the forerunner to a celebrated Sabatier sculpture commissioned by Motte for a curved wall of the Marriage Hall in the City Hall of Grand-Quevilly.

In 1972, **Pierre Paulin (1927 - 2009)** was commissioned to design the private rooms of the Palais de l’Élysée for Prime Minister George Pompidou, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s plum décor assignments. *Public Commission* presents the iconic Élysée Chairs and Élysée Sofa conceived by Paulin – who today is recognized as one of the most influential designers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century -- for the living room of the palace.

*Public Commission* also includes *Prayer Rug* (1969) by **Sheila Hicks (b. Nebraska, 1934)**, who moved to Paris in 1964 and has, over the course of half a century, achieved international renown for works in fiber that include her ingenious sculptural insertions into modern architecture. *Prayer Rug* is an iconic early Hicks work commissioned by Elie de Rothschild.

### **About the Artists**

**Joseph André Motte (1925–2013)** attended l’Ecole des art appliqués a l’industrie in Paris, where he took courses with the renowned designers René Gabriel, Louis Sognot and Albert Guénot. In 1954, Motte and his young colleagues Pierre Guariche and Michel Mortier founded l’Atelier de recherche plastiques (ARP). Together they created groundbreaking designs that reflected the needs of the post-war era while the studio was active from 1954 to 1957. After establishing his own firm, Motte continued collaborating with leading manufacturers and utilized all the new materials that industry made available. He received many of the most prestigious commissions of his era as well as numerous prizes, including the distinguished René Gabriel prize in 1957 and the grand prize at the Exposition International de Bruxelles in 1958.

**Pierre Sabatier (1925-2003)** was an artist best known for his monumental metal sculptures of the late 1960s. He was a member of the "Mur Vivant" movement of the 1960s, which advocated for the integration of art and architecture and he collaborated with numerous architects on sculptures that functioned as architectural elements such as walls, doors, room dividers, and reliefs. Throughout his five decade-spanning career,

he remained dedicated to the interdisciplinary spirit of art, design, and architecture and created furniture, ceramics, sculptures and mosaics.

**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 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'Elysee, and to furnish the office of Francois Mitterand in 1983. 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. In February 2008, the Galerie des Gobelins in Paris exhibited Paulin's works from the permanent collection of Mobilier National as well as a selection of other signature pieces produced throughout his career.

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 Barragan, Ricardo Legorreta and SOM. Her work defies categorization, simultaneously addressing several related mediums including painting, sculpture, design and installation. Hicks's work was included in this year's Whitney Biennial and large-scale installation was exhibited for the Palais de Tokyo will open in April. Hicks' work is also 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.

### **About Demisch Danant**

Founded in 2005 by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant, Demisch Danant specializes in twentieth-century European design with an emphasis on the late 1950s through the 1980s. Based in New York with a presence in Paris, the gallery features the work of Maria Pergay, Pierre Paulin, Joseph André Motte, Pierre Guariche, Philippon and Lecoq, René Jean Caillette and Pentagon Group. Demisch Danant 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.

Demisch Danant is open to the public Monday through Friday 10am to 5:30pm, and on Saturday from 12pm to 6pm. Additional information about the gallery and its programs is available online at [www.demischdanant.com](http://www.demischdanant.com).