

PUBLIC COMMISSION

DESIGN MIAMI
DECEMBER 3_7, 2014

DEMISCH DANANT

J.A. Motte
Pierre Paulin
Sheila Hicks
Pierre Sabatier

Hall of Honor,
Prefecture of Val d'Oise,
Interior Designer
Joseph André Motte,
1967/1968



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

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 20th 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 20th 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.



Office of the Director General,
Dunkerque



Desk pictured without drawers.

Joseph Andre Motte

Desk (Bureau du Directeur General), 1965

Rosewood, formica, aluminium legs

29.53 x 31.5 x 98.43 inches

75 x 80 x 250cm

Unique

Public commission, Office of the Director
General, Dunkerque

Joseph Andre Motte
Rigel Chair, 1965
Chromed steel structure, original vinyl
30.71 x 24.8 x 21.65inches
78 x 63 x 55cm
Edition Steiner





Joseph Andre Motte
Low Table, 1964
Pallisander, steel base
20.08 x 40.16 x 40.16 inches
51 x 102 x 102 cm
Public commission, Dunkerque



Archival image.



Director General of O.R.T.F. (Maison de la Radio), 1962.

Joseph Andre Motte

Desk, 1962

Wood, glass

223 x 90 x 74.5cm

87.8 x 35.43 x 29.33H inches

223 x 90 x 74.5H cm

Public commission, Director General of O.R.T.F. (Maison de la Radio)



Salon des Arts Ménagers, 1967.



Joseph Andre Motte
Low Table, 1967
Steel, macassar
11.81 x 35.43 x 35.43 inches
30 x 90 x 90 cm
Mobilier National
Edition MD



Joseph Andre Motte
Pair of Luge Chairs, 1966
Chrome steel structure, foam, vinyl
33.86 x 24.8 x 25.59 inches
86 x 63 x 65 cm
Manufactured by MPS
Public commission



Marriage Hall, Grenoble City Hall, 1967. Sculptures by Pierre Sabatier.



Municipal Board Room, Grenoble City Hall, 1967



Marriage Hall, Quevilly City Hall, Sabatier 1975.

Pierre Sabatier
Salamander, 1968
Salamander, c. 1968
Tin over worked brass
59.06 x 55.12 inches
150 x 140 cm
Signed



Joseph Andre Motte

Pair of Armchairs, 1967/1975

Foam fabric and tubular
chromed metal base

33.86 H x 24.02 x 23.62 inches

86 H x 61 x 60 cm

Public commission, Rouen City Hall



Pierre Paulin
Pair of Élysée Chairs, 1971
Metal tubular armature,
polyester foam, upholstery
27.56H x 41.73 x 36.22 inches
70H x 106 x 92 cm
Edition Alpha International



The Paintings Room, Palais de l'Élysée, Paris, France, 1972



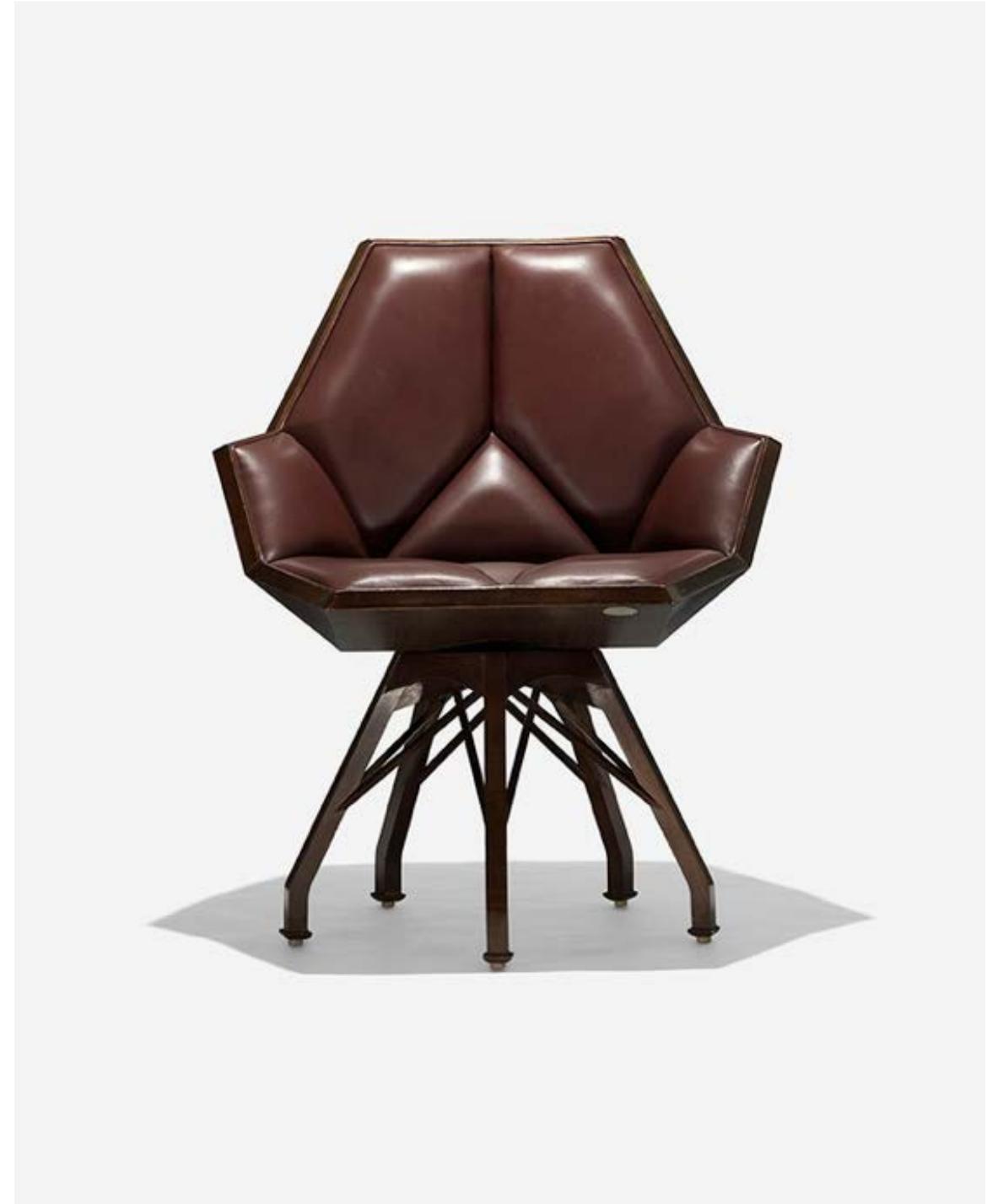
Pierre Paulin
Élysée Sofa, 1971
leather, tubular armature, foam
28.35 x 98.43 x 42.52 inches
72 x 250 x 108cm



Pierre Paulin
Croissant Chairs, 1971
Original fabric over foam
36.61W x 26.38 D x 23.62H inches
93 x 67 x 60H cm
Alpha International
Public commission, Palais de L'Élysée



Merchandise Art Fair, Chicago 1985. This set was originally designed for the office of President François Mitterrand at the Palais de l'Élysée.



Pierre Paulin
Armchair, 1982
Mahogany, leather, cane
37 H x 30 x 26 inches
94 H x 76.2 x 66 cm
Edition Baker
Signed with applied metal
manufacturer's label to
underside: "Baker Furniture"





Sheila Hicks
Prayer Rug, 1969
Wool, mohair, gold thread
94.49 H x 59.06 inches
240 H x 150 cm
Signed and dated "Sheila Hicks, 1969, Paris"
on verso.

Maria Pergay
Dining Table, 1969
Plexiglas and stainless steel
29.25 x 71.65 x 47.24 inches
74.3 x 182 x 120 cm





Etienne Fermigier
Desk Lamp, 1971
Nickel stainless steel
14.57 x 28.35 x 7.87 inches
37 x 72 x 20 cm
Edition AAM



Jacques Ribeyre
Floor Lamp, 1970
Aluminum
84 H x 20 x 20 inches
213.4 x 50.8 x 50.8 cm
Incised on base 'Jacques 1970'



Roger Comparet
Table Lamp, 1965
Aluminum
13.78 H x 9.84 x 4.72 inches
35 H x 25 x 12 cm
Edition Diserot

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.

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For press information or to request photographs for publication, please contact info@andreaschwan.com

For any other inquiries, please contact info@demischdanant.com