

An uncertain spring

Invitation
to forty creators

Press
release



MADAM

MUSÉE DES ARTS
DÉCORATIFS

Extract of the movie *Les Impatients* by Alexandre Humbert, France 2020

19 May
— 3 Oct 2021


RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

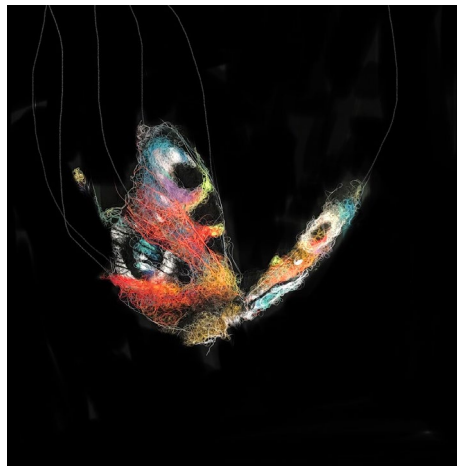
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An uncertain spring

Invitation to forty creators

1. Mathieu Ducournau —
Papillon #1
Cotton thread on canvas
2020
© Galerie Chevalier

2. *Stay Sane, Stay Safe*
is an initiative by
Studio Lennarts
& De Bruijn
and overdeschreef —
2020
© Studio Lennarts
& De Bruijn



1.

“It was an uncertain spring”, Virginia Woolf wrote in her novel *The Years*, published in 1937. Our own spring was most uncertain, and this fall, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs has invited creators, artists, designers, artisans, and graphic designers who during these long, suspended months, never stopped creating, writing, drawing, or collecting.



2.

Mixing disciplines and generations, “An uncertain spring” reveals these intimate moments. It was a chance to pick up a pen in hand, reactivate dormant projects, create useful objects for the public, or everyday items for the home.

It was a time for questioning creation, shifting viewpoints, and exploring. The pieces on display are laden with personal history. They bear witness to a singular moment, warily passed, that allowed some creators to take a step onto forgotten or unknown paths. The exhibition is a dialogue between works that reflect the life of the museum during the spring of 2020 and the museum’s mission and role in society.



3.

3. matali crasset
with Véronique Crasset

—
*La communauté
de la hutte fasciée*
Vidéostill
Movie
2020

4. Erwan Bouroullec —
Tabouret
Wood
2020



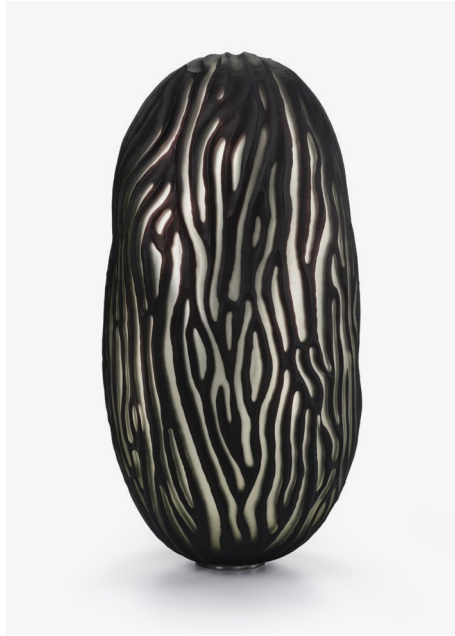
4.

From drawings to objects, manifestos to posters, the exhibition is woven into the collections of the modern and contemporary galleries. It fosters a conversation between objects created during the lockdown and other, more reflective artistic explorations undertaken during this long, undecided, anxious and creative period.

The purpose of “An uncertain spring” is simply to present this unexpected pause, a time for isolation, solitude, or reunion. Some worked in silence while others were surrounded by the turmoil of family life, but all have, through their creations, discovered unsuspected horizons.

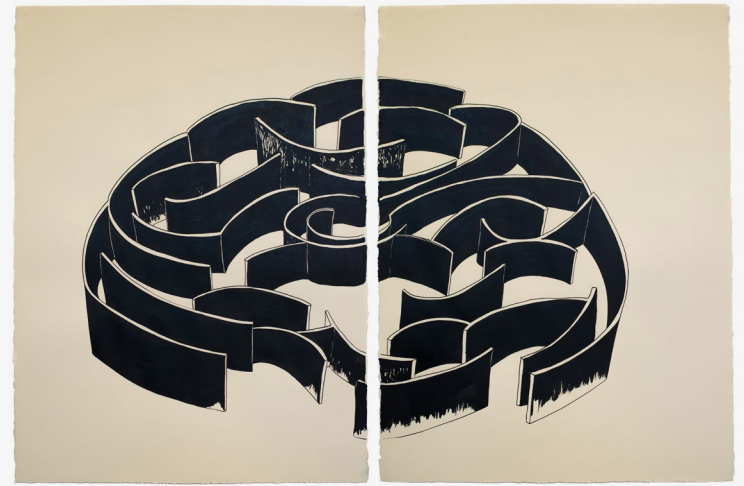
Those weeks and months were a novel experience for creators as much as for the museum and its teams. Since 1939, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs has never been closed for so long and so abruptly, except for renovation or refurbishments, with its teams scattered and separated despite the fruitful continuum of meetings and calls.

5. Xavier Le Normand —
Corail noir
Hand-blown glass
2020



5.

6. Pablo Reinoso —
Labyrinthe 11
India ink on paper
2020
© Rodrigo Reinoso



6.

“An uncertain spring” also bears witness to that experience: the spring acquisitions committee and the meeting of the Cercle Design 20/21 which marks the annual enrichment of contemporary collections and the beginning of summer, were both rescheduled for the fall. Beyond a change of dates, it was an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of museum acquisitions while the world is in crisis. The exhibition is an invitation for collective reflection, shared by the members curatorial team involved with contemporary creation, design, graphic design, craft, toys, and more.

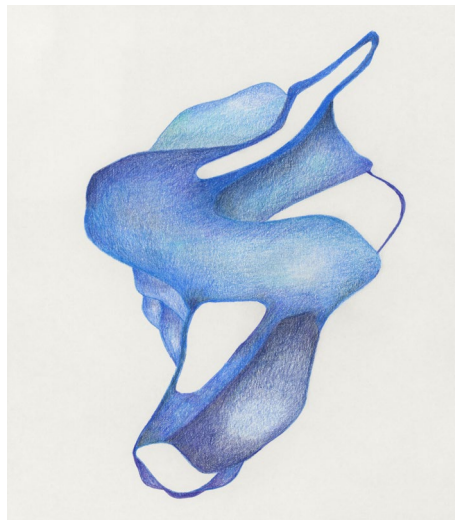
Newly acquired contemporary pieces converse with works drawn from the museum’s collections and the creations selected for “An uncertain spring”. The Covid-19 pandemic was, of course, a source of inspiration, shown by embroideries of the virus, a film about the impatience of objects waiting for the return of visitors, and 3D-printed visors for hospitals. But “An uncertain spring” couldn’t merely show pieces inspired by the coronavirus. That would have been too literal. For some, nature and life were a recurring theme; it was the flight of a butterfly yearning for freedom, a collection of pebbles polished by waves, drawings of tables set in inaccessible gardens, interwoven invading plants or a “painting” made of feathers.



7.

7. Alexandre Benjamin Navet —
View from the Terrace n° 1
 Oil pencil and pastel
 on paper
 2020
 © Grégory Copitet
 Courtesy: Alexandre Benjamin Navet
 and Galerie Derouillon

8. Constance Guisset —
Ghost
 Drawing
 2020
 © Constance Guisset
 Design



8.

More to the point, it exposes how creators experienced it. Throughout our exchanges, the museum had no special expectations, no required typology. Just the wish to show, quite simply, what this truly incredible period has been for each of them. With many of these creators being previously featured in exhibitions or their work is a part of the museum's collections, "An uncertain spring" has allowed us to strengthen our ties to these artists.

Disconnected by the virus from their production lines, studios and workshops, new solitary spaces became "a room of one's own", to quote Woolf again. These spaces became where some creators went back to experimenting, drawing sketches, building models. The hand took over from the machine, giving birth to woven colours, chromatic mirrors, tortuous labyrinths... As they sheltered in place, some creators were inspired by their children's world, conjuring an improvised mini golf in the hallway of their house, or revisiting an alphabet in colour.

Throughout the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, traces and moments of this "uncertain spring" offer a light-handed, touching, often infra-thin itinerary, with no lessons to give or preconceived anticipations, and avoiding the hasty conclusions that so many would like to draw about the world of "after".

Useful information

— Press contacts

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— Curators

Véronique Ayroles, Marianne Brabant, Marie-Sophie Carron de la Carrière, Louise Curtis, Dominique Forest, Amélie Gastaut, Karine Lacquemant, Anne Monier, Jean-Luc Olivié, Cloé Pitiot and Béatrice Quette

#UnPrintempsIncertain

To discover the creations and new acquisitions, please visit our website: madparis.fr

“An uncertain spring. Invitation to forty creators” is part of the design season that brings together the exhibitions:

“M/M (Paris). D’un M/Musée à l’autre”
19 May → 3 October 2021

“Collect / Connect : bijoux contemporains. Julie Decubber / Stefania Lucchetta”
19 May → 3 October 2021

— Les Arts Décoratifs

Pierre-Alexis Dumas, President
Sylvie Corréard, General Director
Olivier Gabet, Director of Museums
Yvon Figueras, Director of international development and production
Olivier Hassler, Director of Communication

— Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Olivier Gabet, Director of Museum
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
+33 (0) 1 44 55 57 50
Métro: Palais-Royal, Pyramides, Tuileries
Open Tuesday to Sunday,
11 am–6 pm (Open late on Thursdays until 9 pm: only temporary exhibitions and the jewelry gallery are open)
→ general entrance fee: €14
→ reduced entrance fee: €10
→ free admission for under 26

— Musée Nissim de Camondo

Olivier Gabet, Director of Museum
63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris
+33 (0) 1 53 89 06 40
Open 10 am–5:30 pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday
→ general entrance fee: €12
→ reduced entrance fee: €9

— Library

Stéphanie Rivoire, Director of Library and Resources
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 36
Open Tuesday to Friday 10 am–6 pm

— Visitor engagement, education and cultural development

The Educational and Cultural Department organizes museum tours for adults, groups and individuals
→ Reservations:
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 26
thematic workshop-tours and guided tours related to specific exhibitions for 4 to 18 year-olds
→ Reservations:
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 25
and lectures and panel discussions
→ Reservations:
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 75

— École Camondo

René-Jacques Mayer, Director
266 Boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris
+33 (0) 1 43 35 44 28

— Ateliers du Carrousel

Fulvia Di Pietrantonio, Director
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
266 boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris
63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 02

— Museum shop

105 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
+33 (0) 1 42 60 64 94
Open 11 am–18:30 pm
Open late on Thursday until 9 pm
Closed Monday

— Loulou, restaurant

107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
or access via the Carrousel gardens
Open daily 12 pm–2 am
+33 (0) 1 42 60 41 96

— Le Camondo, restaurant

61 bis rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris
Open Tuesday to Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday during the day
+33 (0) 1 45 63 40 40

— Internet and social media

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