

The Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne Dation

Press release



April 14th
— May 29th, 2022

MAD

MUSÉE DES ARTS
DÉCORATIFS

François-Xavier Lalanne. *La Mouche*. Brass, steel, porcelain, alnglas and rosewood © Les Arts Décoratifs / Photo: Christophe Dellière © Adagp, 2022 *


RÉPUBLIQUE
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*Liberté
Égalité
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Acquisition of the *Rhinocrétaire II* made possible thanks to the generous donation
of Gregory and Regina Annenberg Weingarten / GRoW @ Annenberg

The Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne Dation

Following the death of Claude Lalanne in 2019, nearly eleven years after François-Xavier's passing in 2008, the Lalanne family proposed to the French State an ensemble of artworks by their parents, presented in this exhibition, in acceptance in Lieu of death tax duties. Under French law, artworks that represent an important national heritage may be accepted by the State in payment of succession taxes: one names them dations. In the past, such dations have permitted the heirs of important artists such as Pablo Picasso to settle their inheritance. In Picasso's case, the family's dation led to the creation of the Musée Picasso in Paris. Thanks to the present dation, the national collections are now enriched of 54 works – 16 sculptures and 38 drawings – representative of the work of Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne.

1. Hippopotamus statuette —
Egyptian faïence
Middle Kingdom
(-2106/-1786)
Musée du Louvre,
Egyptian Antiquities
Department
Photo © Musée
du Louvre, Dist.
RMNGrand Palais /
Christian Décamps

2. François-Xavier
Lalanne —
Hippopotame I
1968/1969
Polyester resin, fiberglass,
brass, copper and steel
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *



1.



2.

54 “Lalannes”, to use the expression coined by writer François Nourissier at a 1966 exhibition at the Galerie Alexandre Iolas in Paris. This exceptional ensemble illustrates their respective careers, reuniting some of their very first pieces with later work – many sculptures that have achieved quasi mythical status, given their presence in collections world-wide. The balance between unique works and multiple editions also reflects the spirit of collections held at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. The decision was made by the government to entrust these 54 pieces to the museum, so they could be exhibited alongside the other “Lalannes” already in the museum’s collection. In 2010, a successful retrospective was organized by the museum, also in the Nef, with a scenography signed Peter Marino. On this occasion, Gregory and Regina Annenberg Weingarten and the Annenberg Foundation gifted the museum with the famous *Rhinocrétaire II* (1966), which has become an icon of the museum. These pieces are now listed in the museum’s inventory, a symbolic gesture that resides at the heart of the mission of all museums. It is the greatest homage we can pay to an artist. All pieces on display come from the Lalanne inheritors’ dation, unless otherwise mentioned.

Partners in life and in art, and sublime sculptors considered a unit in the eye of the public, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne were renowned for drawing inspiration from nature and animals in the design of their creations. Often hybrid, their works stir emotion, surprise, and amusement – a poetry cultivated by Surrealism and an artistic vision guided by plays on words, forms, and materials.



3. Claude Lalande —
Moyen Choupatte
2019
Patinated bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

4. Claude Lalande —
*L'homme à la tête de
chou*
1968-2005
Bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

With this same freedom, the Lalannes also play with the hierarchy of the arts, innovatively bestowing their majestic sculptures with function and purpose. While French public collections include exceptional examples of their works, and ever-more-so thanks to the donation made to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, the international scope of their career has also led to the Lalande's works featuring prominently in noteworthy private collections around the world.

In France, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs displays a selection of outstanding pieces that highlight the art and career of the Lalannes, including the gold *Bouche* (Mouth) necklace, the *Ronce* (Brambles) necklace, a piece of silverware from the *Lolas* set by Claude Lalande, the *Rhinocrétaire II*, a masterpiece by François-Xavier Lalande, made possible thanks to the generous donation of Gregory and Regina Annenberg Weingarten / GRoW @ Annenberg, and a *Crocodile* (Crocodile) bench by Claude Lalande. *The Claude and François-Xavier Lalande Donation* is structured around the sixteen works from the donation, offering a combination of unique *objet d'art*, career milestones, and creations rendered famous by their editions, all in keeping with the age-old mission of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs – “to keep alive in France the culture of the arts which seek to make useful things beautiful.” Displayed on podiums in a minimalist, checkerboard formation, the sixteen works dialogue with pieces from the Permanent Collections of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, representing a conversation between furniture and decorative arts, the Lalanne's two greatest artistic interests.

3.

Of the sixteen pieces in the exhibition, nine are the work of François-Xavier Lalande and include two unique creations: *La Mouche* (The Fly, 1966-1967) and *Hippopotame I* (Hippopotamus I, 1966-1969), which incorporates a sink and a bathtub. These two pieces immediately denote the strong characteristics of François-Xavier Lalande's work, his entry into the history of sculpture, a taste for the monumental, and a pronounced sense of poetry and humor. The donation also incorporates his projects for *Têtes Habitables* (Inhabitable Heads) from the early 1970s, including two models stemming from collaborative projects with architect Émile Aillaud (b. 1902 – d. 1988), as well as preparatory drawings and iconic sculptures such as *Singe Avisé* (Wise Monkey, 2010). Additionally, a set from the series *Nouveaux Moutons* (New Sheep, 2008), evokes the logical continuation of François-Xavier Lalande's research, taking the concept of woolly sheep and adapting them for the outdoors, a focus of exploration late in his career, when he developed a passion for garden art.



4.

5. Claude Lalanne —
Ginkgo bench
2018
Bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

6. Claude Lalanne —
Pair of *Ginkgo* chairs
2018
Bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

7. Claude Lalanne —
Ginkgo table
2010
Bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

The seven works by Claude Lalanne demonstrate her ambition as a sculptor. The artistic signature, in both her thought and execution, shows how the object is detached from a purely decorative state, as seen in her *Ginkgo* furniture (2010-2018) composed of a table, a bench and a pair of chairs, all of which echo the aesthetic explorations of the 19th Century and Art Nouveau, as well as the free and Surrealist imagination of French architect and designer, Emilio Terry (b. 1890 – d. 1969). Claude Lalanne drew from Surrealism and a broad artistic culture to create *L'Homme à la Tête de Chou* (The Man with the Cabbage Head, 1968), which inspired French singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg (b. 1928 – d. 1991) in the late 1960s, but also *Choupatte* (Cabbage Feet, 2019), and *Pomme* (Apple, 2015). Additionally, several preparatory drawings and sketches for key pieces such as *Âne Attelé* (Harnessed Donkey) and *Canard* (Duck), as well as *Hippopotame* (Hippopotamus) by François-Xavier Lalanne and studies for Claude Lalanne's flatware complete the collection of works.



6.



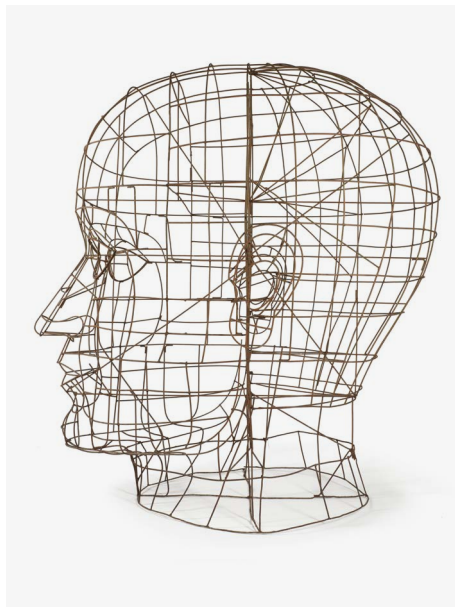
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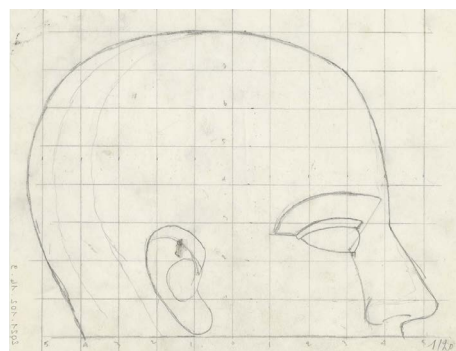
The Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne Dation presents a highly relevant collection of works by François-Xavier and Claude Lalanne while celebrating their place in the artistic history of the 20th and early-21st centuries. This retrospective, hosted by one of the Lalanne's greatest historical supporters, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, is a modern-day tribute to François-Xavier and Claude Lalanne and to their contribution to French national patrimony.

8. François-Xavier
Lalanne —
Tête treillage
1978
Wire
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *



8.

9. François-Xavier
Lalanne —
Tête habitable project
1973
Graphite on tracing paper
© Les Arts Décoratifs
© Adagp, 2022 *



9.

10. François-Xavier
Lalanne —
Tête habitable
Circa 1975
Steel
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *



10.

11. Claude Lalanne —
Pomme Rouge
2015
Patinated bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière © Adagp, 2022 *



11.

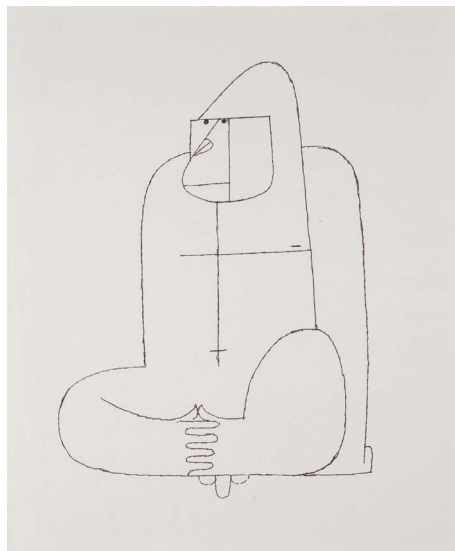
12. François-Xavier Lalanne —
Bélier, 2008
Founder Landowski
Edition 236/250
Agneau, 2010
Founder Blanchet
Edition 290/500
Brebis, 2001
Founder Landowski
Edition 247/250
Bronze, epoxy resin
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *

13. François-Xavier Lalanne —
Preparatory drawing for
the *Gorille de sûreté*
1970
Black ink on wove paper
© Les Arts Décoratifs
© Adagp, 2022 *

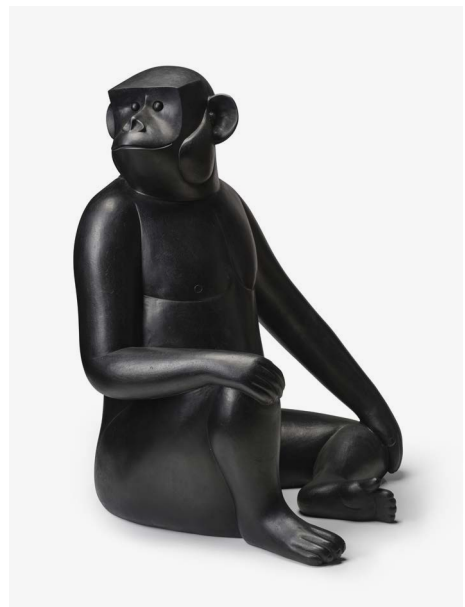
14. François-Xavier Lalanne —
Singe avisé
2010
Founder Bocquet
Edition 8/8
Patinated bronze
© Les Arts Décoratifs /
Photo: Christophe
Dellière
© Adagp, 2022 *



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Useful information

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Olivier Gabet, Director of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs

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#DationLalanne

— Les Arts Décoratifs

Johannes Huth, 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

Hours

Permanent collections:

→ Tuesday to Sunday
11 am–6 pm

Temporary exhibitions:

→ Tuesday and Wednesday
11 am–6 pm

→ Open late on Thursdays until 9 pm, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until 8 pm

Rates

→ 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

→ Activities for individuals

Reservation via the online ticketing

→ Activities for groups

Information and reservations

→ Young public, families, schools:

jeune@madparis.fr / 01 44 55 59 26

→ Adult public, higher education, social field & disability:

adac@madparis.fr / 01 44 55 59 25

→ Conferences, round tables and colloquiums

Information and reservations:
01 44 55 59 75

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— Ateliers du Carrousel

Fulvia Di Pietrantonio, Director
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— Museum shop

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