

LAFFANOUR

GALERIE DOWNTOWN/PARIS

PRESS KIT

TEFAF
MAASTRICHT
2020

TEFAF MAASTRICHT
7 - 15 MARCH 2020

STAND 612

PIERRE PARAT, FURNITURE BY ARCHITECTS



Pierre Parat (1928-2019), *Coffee table*, Ca. 1980, unique piece, petrified wood, metal, H. 14 x W. 41 x D. 37 in.,
Provenance : Personal collection of the artist
©Marie Clérin / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris

For the first time, Downtown gallery presents a selection of furniture pieces by French architect Pierre Parat (1928-2019) at the TEFAF MAASTRICHT fair from 7 to 15 March 2020.

Pierre Parat's work began in 1957 with an ambitious project, the *Basilica of Our Lady of Tears* in Syracuse, revealing the importance of design, the sculptural dimension and a partly brutalist architecture, which contrasts the smooth constructions of the time.

In a post-war context stimulated by the *Trente Glorieuses*, Pierre Parat, associated with Michel Andrault through the ANPAR agency, was committed to a direct approach towards construction, where function dictated form and where volumes were expressed with technical innovation. Emblematic projects such as the Totem Tower in the Beaugrenelle district of Paris, the Palais-omnisports, Paris-Bercy and the University of Paris-Tolbiac, were all marked by the total freedom of form.

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STAND 612
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Forum 100, 6229 GV Maastricht
The Netherlands

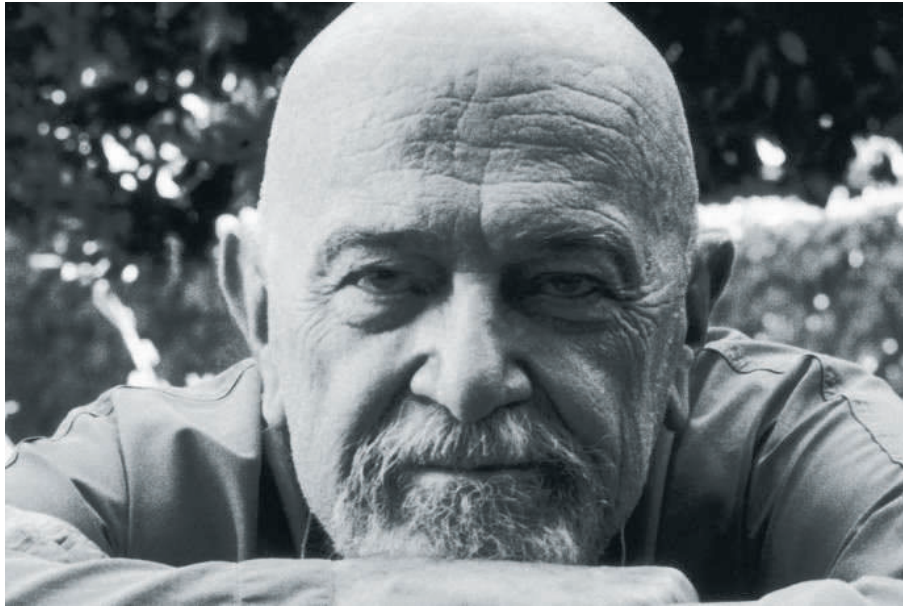
In 1992, after more than thirty years of a fruitful collaboration, the architectural duo split up. Pierre Parat then concentrated upon furniture, where design retained a fundamental place within the creative process. Downtown gallery presents a whole series of pieces, mostly prototypes, from Pierre Parat's personal collection. This exceptional stand will reconstruct and adapt the decor of Pierre Parat's apartment.



Pierre Parat (1928-2019), *Console*, ca. 1980, unique piece, wood, travertine, metal, H. 25 x W. 41 x D. 25 in.
Provenance : Personal collection of the artist
© Marie Clérin / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris

Since its opening in the early 1980s, Downtown gallery, created by François Laffanour, has been presenting 20th century architectural furniture in its exhibitions. Designers - architects for the most part - European and American who, in the aftermath of the Second World War, brought a different conception to the art of furnishing.

Downtown gallery owns and works (among others), from the archives of the Steph Simon gallery which, from 1956 to 1974, represented and edited the furniture of Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve or Isamu Noguchi and shows iconic pieces from the gallery next to the furniture collection of Pierre Parat.



Pierre Parat in 2005
©Photo Didier Gicquel.



Inner courtyard of his house
©« Parat », Pierre Parat, éditions cercle d'art, 2010, Paris. (p.161)

JEAN PROUVÉ (1901 - 1984)



"Bridge Direction" armchair, ca. 1950, black lacquered bent steel structure with four legs, seat and backrest upholstered with original cognac leatherette, two wooden armrests
H. 31,4 x L. 23,2 x D. 20,8 in.

©Studio Shapiro / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris

JACQUES DUMOND (1906-1988)



*Double-sided sideboard, ca. 1950, wood, steel, glass
H. 27.5 x L. 92.5 x D. 31.8 in., labeled "Dumond"*

CHARLOTTE PERRIAND (1903-1999)



Unique cabinet, ca. 1968, wood, aluminum, plastic
H. 106,2 x L. 118,1 x D. 11,8 in. Galerie Steph Simon edition
Provenance : Special commission from Galerie Steph Simon, Paris. Thence by descent