

Steph Simon Rétrospective at Laffanour – Galerie Downtown



On view at Laffanour – Galerie Downtown: Steph Simon Rétrospective, featuring work by Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Isamu Noguchi, and more. Photo © Laffanour – Galerie Downtown

Continuing our tour in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, be sure to visit Laffanour – Galerie Downtown, a design gem on the famous Rue de Seine. The gallery's founder, venerable design expert François Laffanour, began buying up entire lots of modernist designs in the 1970s, at a time when most vintage collectors were focused on Art Deco. He launched his gallery in 1982 with a focus on the furniture of 20th-century architects like Oscar Niemeyer, Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, and Le Corbusier, expanding his offering over the years to include other mid-century notables like Isamu Noguchi and José Zanine Caldas as well as more contemporary architect-designers like Ettore Sottsass and Ron Arad. Along the way, Galerie Downtown has become an indispensable resource for serious design collectors the world over.

The gallery's current exhibition is a retrospective of iconic designs originally commissioned by Steph Simon, the legendary postwar Parisian gallerist who played a major role in propelling the design careers of Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve, and Isamu Noguchi. Since acquiring the Steph Simon archive 20 years ago, Laffanour has been meticulously reconstructing Simon's outsized role in design history. Steph Simon Rétrospective at Laffanour – Galerie Downtown brings that history to life.