

Laffanour/Galerie Downtown Paris x Thomas Fritsch - Artrium
at the first edition of Design Miami/Paris

Hôtel de Maisons
51, rue de l'Université
75007 Paris

Preview on October 17th, 2023
From October 18th to 22nd, 2023

Laffanour/Galerie Downtown Paris is pleased to announce its participation in the very first Parisian edition of Design Miami/, that will take place from October 18th to 22nd in an emblematic location in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés - the hôtel de Maisons. Sharing a booth with Thomas Fritsch, a neighbouring gallery in Saint-Germain-des-Prés specialised in decorative arts and particularly post-war French ceramics, Galerie Downtown unveils an exceptional *Japon* desk of minimal yet monumental shape created by Charlotte Perriand for the *Soumi* Memorial in Ichinomya in 1955.



In 1955, Charlotte Perriand was invited to Japon again, in Tokyo, by the Takashimaya department store, to organise a second exhibition entitled «Synthesis of the Arts». During this trip to Japan, Charlotte Perriand reconnected with Junzo Sakakura and Kunio Markawa, who she had met 20 years earlier at Le Corbusier's agency. She also bonded with Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, with whom she made a few pieces of furniture such as this large desk. This piece manifests as an inspiration of her travel, the shape is influenced by Japanese religious architecture and stands out from her previous desks, like those edited in France by the BCC since 1946.



CHARLOTTE PERRIAND (1903-1999)

Large desk *Japon*, 1955

Rectangular ash and black Formica desk on two legs.

H. 225 x L. 86 x P. 71 cm



JEAN PROUVÉ (1901-1984)

Bridge Directeur armchair, ca. 1950

Black lacquered folded sheet steel, seat and back covered in red skaï, two solid wood armrests.

H. 77 x L. 64 x P. 53 cm

For this first Parisian edition of Design Miami/, the gallery also decided to display the iconic *Bridge Directeur* armchair and the *Metropole* door, both made by Jean Prouvé. According to the gallery's director, Hélin Serre, «*Design Miami/ is a fair that remains loyal to dealers that attend it since its beginnings (like Galerie Downtown), but always manages to transform itself over the years and attract new International collectors, without losing in quality. It is a truly International project that has always promoted both aspects of design, contemporary and historical, leading to fruitful encounters.*»



JEAN PROUVÉ (1901-1984)

Metropole door, ca. 1951

Aluminium sheet, six portholes and surrounding frame.



ABOUT GALERIE DOWNTOWN

Since its opening in the early 80's, the Laffanour / Galerie Downtown Paris, created by François Laffanour, has been exploring and exhibiting the furniture of 20th century architects, contributing to the rehabilitation and valorization of the masters of post-war architecture.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, designers and architects brought a new conception to the art of furnishing, dictated by a need for freedom and efficiency, in the service of a new art of living in an era of technological and scientific development, but also sociological, demographic and social.

The Laffanour / Galerie Downtown Paris also holds the archives of the Steph Simon Gallery which, from 1956 to 1974, represented and published the furniture of Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve and Isamu Noguchi.

