

FAIR

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downtown+

PAD
P A R I S
ART + DESIGN

Jardin des Tuileries,
Paris, France



Pieces selection



downtown+ is delighted to announce its first participation in PAD. Through a scenography designed by Luna Laffanour, the new downtown+ department of the legendary Galerie Downtown will present iconic pieces by the illustrious Italian designer, Gaetano Pesce, in dialogue with pieces by the contemporary Greek artist Theodore Psychoyos.

To pay tribute to Gaetano Pesce, downtown+ will be exhibiting the Sansone table, designed in 1980 for Cassina. An influential artist of Radical design, Pesce was firmly opposed to the mass production of furniture.

Although produced in several editions, it is impossible to find two identical pieces. Cut edges, non-linear painting... Pesce rebelled against the industrial perfection of modernism by designing furniture and objects whose form is both expressive and eccentric.

Alongside the Sansone table, Luna Laffanour will present a fitting room from the Dujardin store in Knokke-le-Zoute. In 1994, Pesce was commissioned to decorate the Dujardin store, a perfect illustration of the playfulness of his work. Combining art and design, this fitting room is a perfect example of Pesce's artistic research.

In the same spirit of questioning 'know-how' and manufacturing dexterity, in dialogue with Gaetano Pesce, downtown+ will showcase the work of Theodore Psychoyos, an iconoclastic contemporary marble artist whose raw, archaic pieces, devoid of aesthetic effort or intention, seem to defy time, chance and gravity. A true dialogue will be installed between these two designers who, despite their different approaches, share a playful, rebellious vision. Pesce, known for his bold use of color and synthetic resins, creates pieces that celebrate the unique and the irregular. Psychoyos, with his preference for stone, marble and more sober tones, anchors his art in the inescapable matrix rock.

Gaetano Pesce, born on November 8, 1939 in La Spezia, Italy, is an avant-garde architect and designer renowned for his experimental approach to materials and his bold use of shapes and colors. He is mainly known for his "Up Series" armchair (1969), a symbol of social criticism. Pesce left his mark on design and architecture through his rejection of convention, integrating art, design and social criticism in his work. Having been active since the 1960s, he continues to exert influence on the field through his teaching and innovative creations.

Gaetano Pesce
'Sansone I' table, ca. 1980



© Marie Clérin – Galerie Downtown

Gaetano Pesce
Fitting room, ca. 1994



© Justin Meekel – Galerie Downtown

Gaetano Pesce
'Sansone Due' table, ca. 1986



© Michael Brunn – Galerie Downtown

Theodore Psychoyos
Marble seat, 2023



© Athena Vadratsika

Theodore Psychoyos
Marble stool, 2023

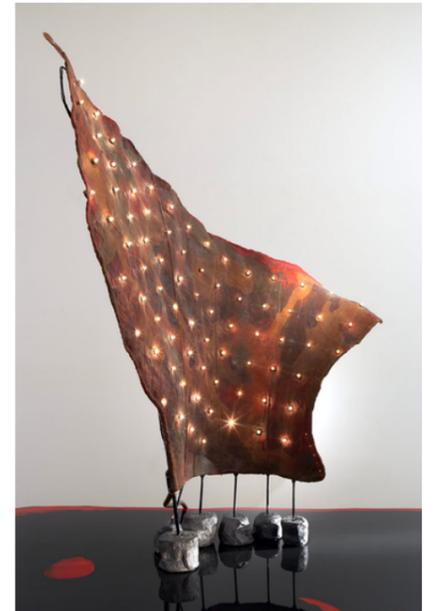


© Michael Brunn – Galerie Downtown

Theodore Psychoyos was born in 1968 to Greek parents, both biologists. Raised in France, he immersed himself in the arts, mastering the piano and pursuing a dual academic journey. He obtained a law degree from the prestigious Sorbonne alongside his studies in sculpture at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Since then, his creative endeavors have expanded to encompass painting, writing, sculpting, and the craftsmanship of wooden boats.

Since 2020, Theodore has concentrated on functional art and architecture. His young Studio, founded in Paris in 2021, is dedicated to the up-cycling of materials and applications, and specifically explores the properties and applications of marble, from its origins (crystallization, weight, durability) to its extraction and natural weathering process (water, light, humidity).

Gaetano Pesce
'Airport' lamp, ca. 1986



© Justin Meekel – Galerie Downtown

Gaetano Pesce
Table haute 'Sansone Due', ca. 1986



© Michael Brunn – Galerie Downtown

downtown+

Created in 2023 upon the initiative of Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Luna Laffanour, Downtown+ brings together pieces from the gallery's collection and also works by creators from the young contemporary scene.

Over the decades, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown has showcased the work of 20th century modernist architects and has gained worldwide recognition for its exhibitions of Prouvé, Perriand and Jeanneret.

In order to explore the gallery's heritage, Luna Laffanour offers a new take on these multiple collections through a series of exhibitions, both physical and digital, where design and contemporary art will be presented together.

For the inaugural 'trônes' exhibition, downtown+ took over 72 rue de l'Université, Paris, where a selection of sculptural chairs and a series of paintings by Tim Wilson were presented from May 31 to June 3, 2023.

In December 2023 downtown+ returned to this metal trend with pieces by various designers, offering the flash sale 'metalloids' exclusively online from December 1 to 23 on its website, instagram page and on request.

For COLLECTIBLE 2024, downtown+ presented its very first scenography, designed by Luna Laffanour, last March. The stand featured a dialogue mixing iconic pieces by Ettore Sottsass, Philippe Starck, Jun'ya Ishigami, Ingo Maurer, Andrea Branzi, Archizoom, Bob Wilson and many others...

Over the last 2 exhibitions downtown+ has represented the work of designers such as:

Charlotte Perriand
Jean Prouvé
Ettore Sottsass
Gaetano Pesce
Pierre Paulin
Ron Arad
Pucci De Rossi
Gino Sarfatti
Philippe Starck
Mathieu Matégot
Superstudio

Joe Colombo
Jun'ya Ishigami
Sori Yanagi
Tokujin Yoshioka
Leo Orta
Bob Wilson
Tim Wilson
Zyva Studio & Sam Buckle
Theodore Psychoyos
Aleksandr Delev
Sam Chermayeff



downtown+ trônes
exposition – 2023

downtown+
Collectible 2024



© Alice Pallot

Luna Laffanour



Born in 1996, Luna Laffanour grew up in a Franco-Japanese bi-culture thanks to her parents, gallery owner François Laffanour and artist Yumiko Seki. With a personality dictated by her tastes for aesthetics, creativity and the arts, she studied first in England at the University of the Arts London, then at the Camondo School from which she graduated in 2020 in Interior Architecture and Design, before joining ESCP in Management of Cultural Goods and Activities.

In 2021, she joined Galerie Downtown, founded in 1982 by François Laffanour, which has gained worldwide recognition over the decades for its exhibitions of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret.

For Luna, the temptation to continue the Downtown adventure is legitimate, as is the desire to emancipate, distinguish and invent. Luna believes in interdisciplinarity and exchange, a conviction certainly born of her bi-culture.

In 2023, the Galerie Downtown, already contemporary and innovative, reinvents itself with the creation of a new downtown+ department created by Luna Laffanour. She is now at the forefront of this project, taking a fresh look at the gallery's heritage through a cycle of both physical and digital exhibitions, mixing design and contemporary art.

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