



# TEFAF NEW YORK



643, Park Avenue Armory, 10065 New York  
Booth 376

For this 11th edition of TEFAF New York, the gallery will be presenting several exceptional pieces by Charlotte Perriand, José Zanine Caldas and Vassilakis Takis, visionary architects and designers of the last century whose work laid the foundations of modernist design.

Laffanour | Galerie Downtown returns to TEFAF New York from May 9 to 13, 2025, with a curated scenography dedicated to 20th-century design icons. The selection brings together emblematic works that reflect the gallery's commitment to historical design with a strong sculptural presence. Among the highlights: Jean Prouvé's iconic stepladder (ca. 1950) and a rare 'Présidence' desk (ca. 1950), presented alongside key pieces by Charlotte Perriand, José Zanine Caldas, Vassilakis Takis, and others — celebrating the radical creativity and craftsmanship of the modern era.



**Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)**  
Rolling stepladder  
ca. 1950

### **The Rolling Stepladder by JEAN PROUVÉ : An icon of functional design**

Some creations go beyond their simple function to become true symbols of innovation. Jean Prouvé's rolling stepladder, designed around 1950, is a perfect example. Produced in very limited numbers, this piece embodies both the pragmatic spirit and the avant-garde vision of the designer.

Originally developed for Société Générale - a major client of the Ateliers Jean Prouvé at the time - this stepladder was a response to the growing need to modernise banking infrastructures. It was installed in several regional head offices in France and in branches overseas, combining robustness, functionality and aesthetic quality. Manufactured between 1951 and 1954, it reflects a key period for the Ateliers Jean Prouvé, marked by a remarkable alliance between technical ingenuity and formal purity. Its very limited series production bears witness to the high standards of craftsmanship and the specific nature of the orders received at the time.

The Rolling Stepladder has a minimalist design, with a lacquered steel structure and solid wood steps. Easy to move thanks to its castors, it is fitted with a locking system that guarantees stability and safety, in compliance with the standards in force at the time. Designed to facilitate access to archives and high shelving, it quickly became an essential part of the functional layout of professional spaces. The fact that it has spread beyond France's borders is testament to its relevance in optimising workplaces.

Today, the Rolling Stepladder is a rare piece, coveted as much for its historical value as for the strength of its design. It embodies Jean Prouvé's ability to elevate utilitarian objects to the status of works of art, and remains a powerful reminder of an era when design and engineering were seen as global responses, conceived in the service of society - a perfect illustration of the Prouvé ethic.



**Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)**  
Rare 'Présidence' desk  
Ca.1950



**Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)**  
'Conférence' armchair  
Ca.1953



## **Charlotte Perriand**

Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999) was a visionary architect and designer who established herself as an icon of modern design, acclaimed for her humanist and functional approach to the home. Designed in 1952, her famous chaise longue in tubular steel and canvas is a perfect illustration of her approach: clean lines, ergonomic shapes and a dialogue between industrial and traditional materials. A blend of art de vivre and modernity, this emblematic piece embodies Perriand's vision of design geared towards comfort, social innovation and harmony with the environment.

## **Vassilakis Takis**

Takis is a Greek sculptor, born in 1925 in Athens. When he moved to Paris in 1954, attracted by the artistic buzz of the city, Takis felt a real fascination for the technology of this new world, which he contrasted with Greece, his native country ruined by years of war, and a great desire for change, which he expressed through his art. He seeks to resurrect an ancient mythology and a time when artists created the gods, "this people of space": he seeks another relationship to the world, where "truth" would burst forth, a truth that exists "in the birth of things.



**José Zanine Caldas (1919-2001)**

Coffee Table  
1978

## **José Zanine Caldas**

A self-taught architect and designer, José Zanine Caldas (1919-2001) established himself as a major figure in Brazilian design, celebrated for his organic approach and deep connection with nature. Produced in 1978, this coffee table carved from solid wood is a perfect illustration of his approach: raw forms, asymmetrical lines and an emphasis on natural textures. Part sculpture, part furniture, this piece embodies Zanine's vision of instinctive design, rooted in traditional skills and respect for materials.

About

## LAFFANOUR | GALERIE DOWNTOWN



François Laffanour © DePasquale+Maffini

Based in Paris, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown has established itself as a leading name in post-war design, representing such iconic figures as Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Pierre Jeanneret and Le Corbusier.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, designers and architects brought a new concept 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, as well as sociological, demographic and social development.

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



Press Contact - FAVORI

233, rue Saint-Honoré 75001 – T +33 1 42 71 20 46  
Grégoire Marot - Caroline Boudehen - Juliette Rebuffie  
caroline@favoriparis.com; juliette@favoriparis.com