

PRESS RELEASE
APRIL 2026



is thrilled to announce its participation at PAD Paris

- From 8th to 12th April 2026 -

Booth 01

JARDIN DES TUILERIES

Entrance facing rue Castiglione
75001 Paris



Joseph Savina (1901–1983)

Set of 8 chairs
1950

For the 28th edition of PAD Paris, which will be held from 8th to 12th of April, 2026, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown offers a scenography revealing the artistic affinities between the architect and designer Le Corbusier and the Breton sculptor Joseph Savina.

The presentation will highlight Savina's furniture, deeply rooted in its Armorican heritage, as well as Le Corbusier's iconic seating, accompanied by a selection of original drawings created by the latter for Savina.





It was after many years of research dedicated to the work of Le Corbusier that François Laffanour discovered Joseph Savina. This new perspective, revealing Le Corbusier's multiple sources of inspiration as well as François's personal attachment to Brittany, opens a new avenue for the in-depth exploration of an exceptional artist, designer, and cabinetmaker. He is gradually assembling a collection of pieces that will be presented in a dedicated exhibition at the gallery in February 2024.

Rediscovering talent and highlighting the overlooked artists of past generations has always been a primary ambition for Laffanour | Galerie Downtown. Thus, this new presentation at PAD Paris offers a true journey to the heart of modernist Brittany, a cultural melting pot blending maritime, Christian, Celtic, and 20th-century vernacular influences. As one of the most innovative figures of this avant-garde, Joseph Savina embodies this spirit resolutely turned towards modernity, claiming the richness of Breton folk art by particularly valuing tradition and craftsmanship in his creations.

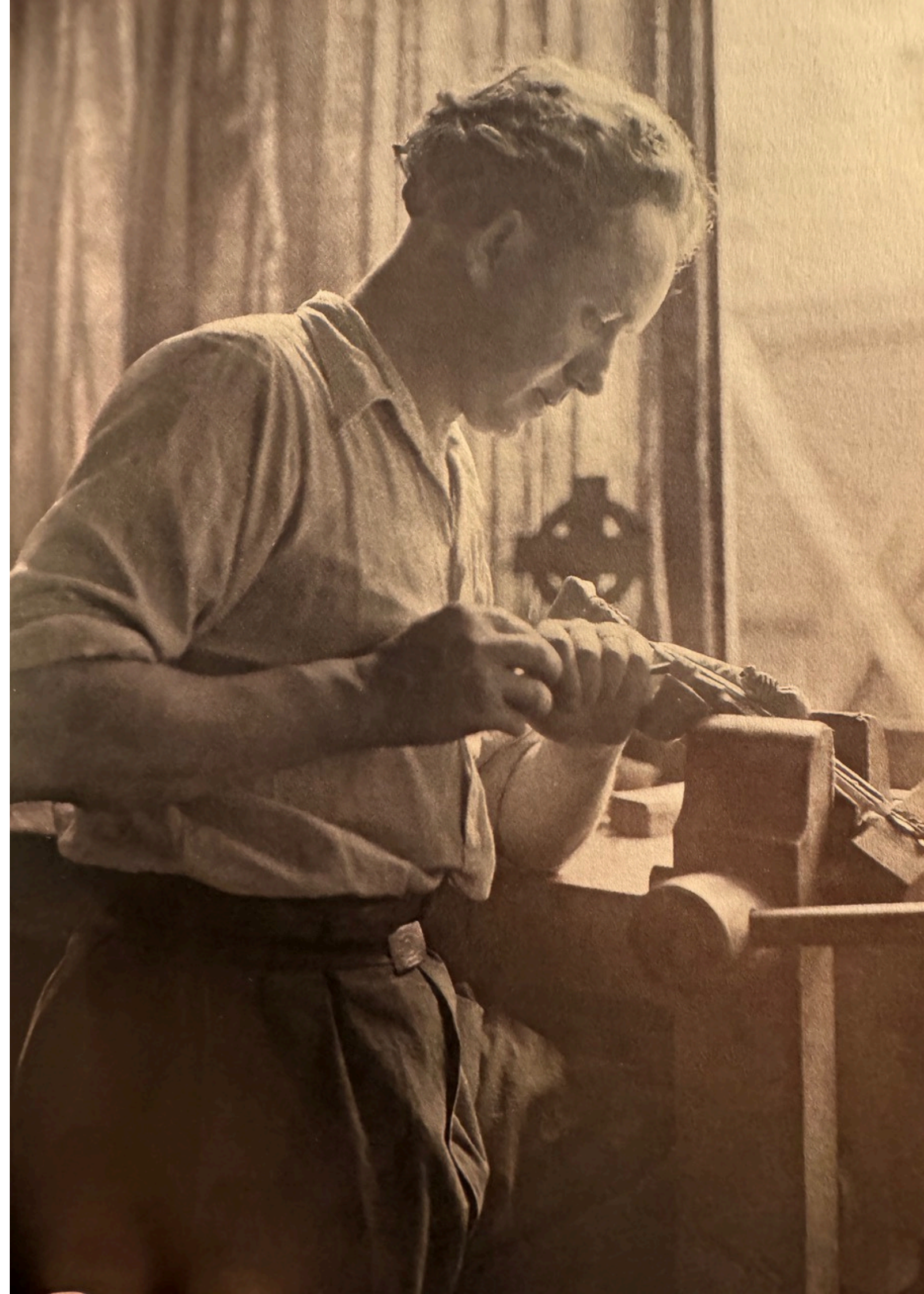
Joseph Savina (1901 – 1983)

Rectangular table (detail)

1935

Born in Douarnenez in 1901 into a family of cabinetmakers, Joseph Savina grew up surrounded by wood and sculpture, honing his skills alongside Jean Le Picard, a carpenter and sculptor. Named "Meilleur Ouvrier de France" (Best Craftsman of France) in 1929, he opened his own workshop on Rue Saint-André in Tréguier. There, he combined rigorous craftsmanship with an innovative design spirit, while remaining a fervent advocate of Breton art. Rejecting overly conventional decorative details, he favored highlighting the structural lines of his furniture. His output was prolific, and he quickly earned the nickname "the embroiderer on wood."

Joseph Savina is also an emblematic figure of the Breton avant-garde movement *Seiz Breur*. Before his pivotal encounter with Le Corbusier, he associated with this group of artists, founded in 1923 by the engraver and decorator Jeanne Malivel, which aimed to revitalize Breton folk art. One of his sideboards from the 1930s, for example, is directly inspired by the work of Jeanne Malivel and René-Yves Creton, with schematic and stylized decorations that he would later reuse to create his monogram. Savina gradually developed a diverse decorative vocabulary: palmettes, scrolls, lozenges, fish, and interlacing kelp, which soon came to characterize his entire body of work.



Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965), Charlotte Perriand (1903 – 1999) & Pierre Jeanneret (1896 – 1967)

Armchair 'Grand confort',

1928



Joseph Savina and Le Corbusier met in 1935 and quickly became friends, despite their very different backgrounds. For Savina, Le Corbusier literally embodied what he called "the new breath of modernity." Numerous letters attest to the genesis of their collaborative work. Savina was passionately interested in Le Corbusier's architectural innovations, seeking to draw parallels between the architect and designer's core principles while retaining his Breton influences as an anchor, without fearing the effect of a bold juxtaposition.



Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965), Charlotte Perriand (1903 – 1999) & Pierre Jeanneret (1896 – 1967)

Lounge chair 'Thonet B 306'

1930

Despite the Second World War and the distance, their correspondence and exchange of drawings, which resumed in 1940, reveal the bond between the two artists. In May 1943, Joseph Savina's workshop reopened, and the cabinetmaker showed his friend some of his latest creations. The architect replied: "Savina, I find them astounding, exceeding my expectations." These lines, referring to the sculpture Ozon Opus 1, testify to a true creative synergy between the two men. A notable detail in their collaboration: this work was carved by Savina and enhanced with polychromy by Le Corbusier; the initials J.S – L.C. then appeared on the sculptures.



Joseph Savina (1901 – 1983) & Le Corbusier (1887 - 1965)

Ozon Opus I

1947

Savina.
Renti des ind. vendus 17
Parti à Berlin le 20
rentre le 21.

Reyn la statue le 22 à 14 heures
C'est bien, Savina, canape!
L'interprétation est faite.
La statue Totem (appelée le Dyon - Totem 2.)
à rendre la correction à dessein (B)
Puisque cela. S.O.P.
Elle est belle. Elle mérite une seconde édition
que je vous envoie (avec un D. de menu) (bien complé-
mentaire)
L'interprétation.
La statue sculptée est bonne. Elle montrera



Savina:
Puisque cela
est très bien
et voyez avec
les autres
ce n'est pas de celle
(à propos)
Je serai à Paris
le 27 et 28.

Les 2 lions.
sont peints
blanc comme
la masse avoisinante

In 1953, Le Corbusier entrusted his colleague with the design of the entrance door, the cross, the high altar, and the pews for the Notre-Dame-du-Haut Chapel in Ronchamp. Their collaboration continued until the architect's death in 1965.

Today, Joseph Savina's works are part of Breton museum collections, such as the Musée de Bretagne in Rennes and the Musée départemental breton in Quimper, as well as private collections in France and the United States, notably in Miami.

A major figure in the modernization and preservation of Breton craftsmanship, Savina's role is highlighted at PAD Paris. The booth will present a rare collection of works, underscoring Savina's decisive, yet often understated, importance, rooted in traditional craftsmanship and resolutely oriented towards modernity.

Charlotte Perriand (1903 – 1999)
Archive drawing 'Lettre à Joseph Savina'
1957

ABOUT **LAFFANOUR | GALERIE DOWNTOWN**

François Laffanour is a gallery owner, antique dealer, art dealer, and a major figure in the design market. For 46 years, he has specialized in furniture by 20th- and 21st-century architects and designers, combining his historical interest with a contemporary perspective.

Opened in 1982, the Downtown gallery has established itself as a leading authority on designers such as Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Pierre Jeanneret, Gio Ponti, Ettore Sottsass, and Gaetano Pesce. It also organizes exhibitions dedicated to American architects, such as Charles Eames, George Nelson, George Nakashima, and Isamu Noguchi, while contributing to the rediscovery of Shaker furniture. Always seeking international dialogue, the gallery also presents exhibitions on Oscar Niemeyer, José Zanine Caldas, and Luis Barragán.

In 2006, François Laffanour acquired the archives of the Steph Simon gallery, which, between 1956 and 1974, published and sold the creations of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Serge Mouille, and Georges Jouve. The gallery also has a department dedicated to contemporary design, representing, among others, Choi Byung Hoon, Ron Arad, Richard Texier, and Tom Fecht. Since 2007, François Laffanour has been a key figure at all major international art and design fairs, such as TEFAF (New York), Design Miami, MAZE Art (Gstaad and Basel), as well as PAD Paris and PAD London.

François Laffanour is an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, Vice-President of the Compagnie Nationale des Experts (National Company of Experts), former Secretary General of the Syndicat National des Antiquaires (National Union of Antique Dealers), and a member of the board of directors of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (Museum of Decorative Arts).



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

PAD Paris

Jardin des Tuileries
Entrance facing rue de Castiglione - 75001 Paris

Booth 01

CALENDAR

Collectors Preview

Wednesday 8th April · 11am – 9pm
Jury Visit · 10am – 12.30

VIP Opening

Thursday 9th April · 11am – 9pm

Public opening

Friday 10th April · 11am – 7pm
Saturday 11th April · 11am – 7pm
Sunday 12th April · 11 am – 7pm

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GALLERY CONTACTS

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Opening hours

Sunday and Monday · Closed
Tuesday to Saturday · 10.30 – 1pm / 2pm – 7pm

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