Laffanour GalerieDowntownParis

CHARLES RIVA COLLECTION

Exhibition « LEVEL Part II »

Act II of the collaboration with Charles Riva Collection

From October 3rd to 26th, 2024

Laffanour | Galerie Downtown
18, rue de Seine
75006 Paris

Laffanour | Galerie Downtown is delighted to unveil the exhibition “LEVEL Part II”, in collaboration with Charles Riva Collection, from October 3rd to 26th, 2024. For the occasion, François Laffanour and collector and curator Charles Riva bring together contemporary artworks by international artists with iconic pieces by 20th-century designers.

For the second act of this collaboration initiated in 2023, **Laffanour | Galerie Downtown** presents a selection of exceptional pieces, treasures of twentieth-century design. Signed by masters **Jean Prouvé**, **Charlotte Perriand**, **Le Corbusier** and **Pierre Jeanneret**, these masterpieces of museum quality embody the expertise and innovation that revolutionized modern design.

Jean Prouvé’s creations, such as his famous *Fauteuil Cité* (1933), attest to his ability to master industrial materials and his functional approach. **Charlotte Perriand**’s elegant, ergonomic pieces reflect her engagement with everyday design, while **Le Corbusier** and **Pierre Jeanneret** embodied an innovative vision of comfort and architecture. This selection highlights the timeless and historic character of design, while adding a contemporary touch with more contemporary creations by **Tokujin Yoshioka** and **Ron Arad**.

Christopher Wool
Untitled, 2008-2011
Encre sérigraphique et peinture émaillée sur papier

Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)
Fauteuil Direction, 1943
Structure en tôle d’acier pliée laquée brun Van Dyck
pieds arrières fuselés, assise recouverte de skaï vert,
et accoudoirs en chêne

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Invited by **Laffanour | Galerie Downtown**, **Charles Riva** presents a selection of artworks from the international contemporary scene. **Christopher Wool**, an American painter renowned for his conceptual works, explores the foundations of the image, while **Cheyney Thompson** experiments with technology and the study of systems in *Untitled (Blue-Red)* (2009), in which the motif of a scanned canvas, enlarged and then reproduced by hand, creates a captivating optical effect. **Paul McCarthy**, known for his provocative installations, interrogates popular culture, and **Georg Baselitz**, a master of neo-expressionism, presents one of his famous inverted silhouettes.

Richard Serra, better known for his monumental steel installations, presents a painting entitled *Elevational Weights, Vertical Mass* (2010), a reflection on space and light, in which black becomes the central subject. **Sterling Ruby** considers the burdens of contemporary existence, as does **Thomas Houseago**, with his monumental sculpture *Ghost of a Flea /* (2011). Urs Fischer, known for his subversive and humoristic installations, completes the selection with his work *Sight, Sight, Sherlock!* (2004), while **Steven Shearer** looks into pop culture and marginality, drawing on the aesthetics of heavy metal and subcultures to address themes of isolation and identity.

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1/ Cheyney Thompson
Untitled (Blue-Red), 2009
Oil on canva

2/ Urs Fischer
Sigh, Sigh, Sherlock !, 2004
Signed on a metal label under the base painted plaster cast

3/ Steven Shearer
Bastu, 2009
Crayon on 2 joined sheets of paper

4/ Thomas Houseago
Ghost of a flea I, 2011
Bronze

Credits : ©Charles Riva Collection

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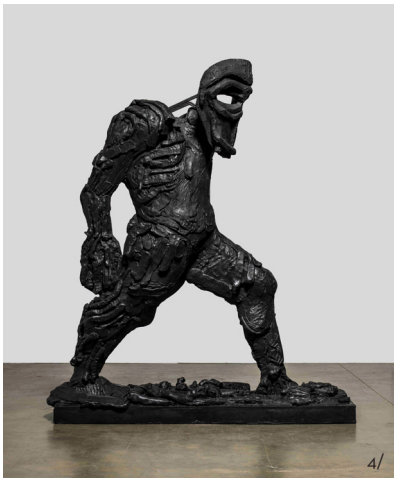
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1/ Georg Baselitz
Untitled, 2005
Watercolour and china ink on paper

2/ Richard Serra
Elevational Weights, Vertical Mass, 2010
Paint stick on handmade paper, in artist's frame sheet

3/ Christopher Wool
Untitled, 2008-2011
Silkscreen ink and enamel paint on paper

Crédits : © Charles Riva Collection

About 'LEVEL' (Act I) :

The first edition of "LEVEL", an exhibition in collaboration with **Charles Riva**, was held at **Laffanour | Galerie Downtown** from March 24th to May 20th, 2023, followed by a second stop at the **Charles Riva Collection** in Brussels, from April 19th to July 1rst, 2023. This collaboration featured works by **Jean Prouvé** and **Pierre Jeanneret**, in dialogue with contemporary artists such as **Paul McCarthy** and **Christopher Wool**.

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ABOUT LAFFANOUR | GALERIE DOWNTOWN

Charles Riva & François Laffanour © Galerie Downtown

Since its opening in the early 1980s, **Laffanour | Galerie Downtown**, founded by **François Laffanour**, has been exploring and exhibiting the furniture of 20th-century architects, helping to rehabilitate and promote 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, as well as sociological, demographic and social development.

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