

Hervé Wahlen

BETWEEN GOLDSMITH AND SCULPTOR,
THE MODERN AGE OF COPPERWARE

mp.
maison parisienne



Ambiance II, 2022 ©Antoine Lippens

PRESS RELEASE



Grande Torsion, 2022 ©Antoine Lippens

Born in 1957, the self-taught artist **Hervé Wahlen** began working with copper in 1981. He would make it his true means of expression a few years later after having practiced sculpture with other materials such as wood, stone and iron.



Hervé Wahlen ©Thibaut Chapotot

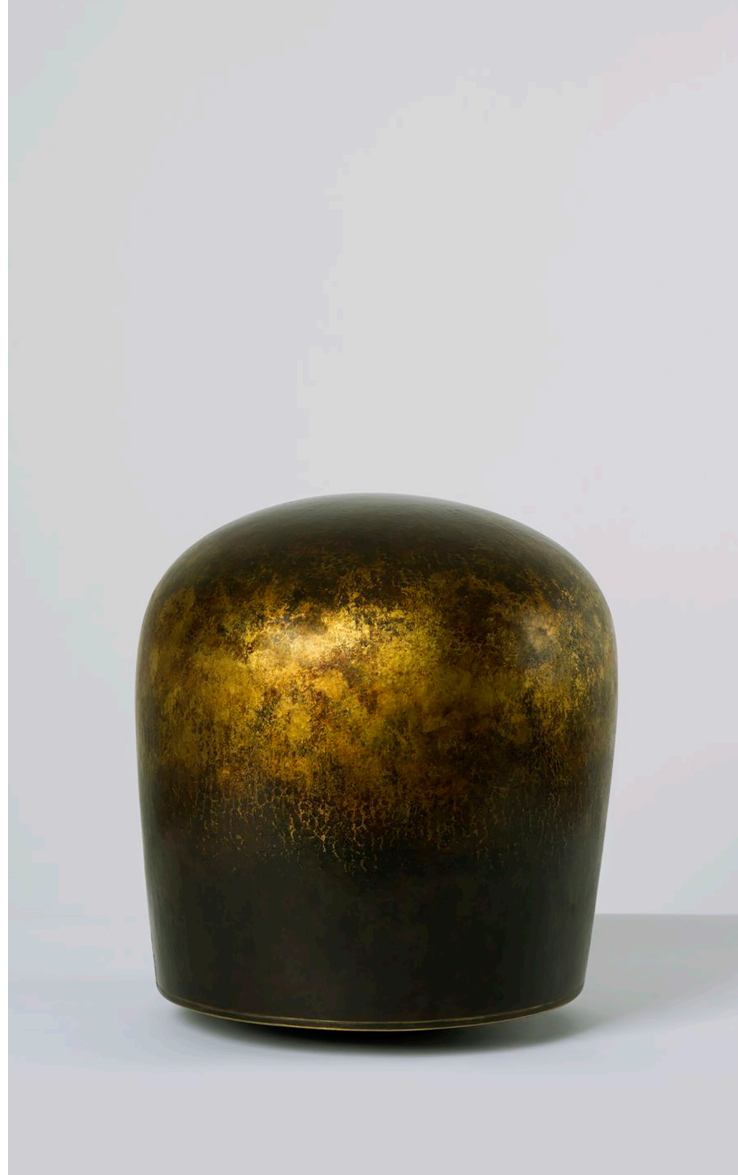
The artist intuitively renews traditional forms and techniques of copperware by using the historical tools of René-Gabriel Lacroix (1894-1963), a sculptor from the Art Deco movement.

Represented by maison parisienne since 2012, Hervé Wahlen's work is included in several international private and public collections.

A SPACE OF FREEDOM

Every day in his workshop, **Hervé Wahlen** experiments with copper and brass as his primary materials. Hammering, soldering, engraving and patinating, he likes to improvise once the rough form has been sketched out. Surprises and accidents, or “twists of fate” as he describes them, contribute to the individuality of each piece.

Working on multiple pieces simultaneously, **Hervé Wahlen's** creations manifest supple, pure, almost organic lines. The addition of gold or palladium leaf and the transformative effects of patina - that of which only **Hervé Wahlen** knows the secret - accentuate the allure of his works. A final wax polishing further enhances the sensuality of the surface.



Dôme, 2019 ©maison parisienne



Genèse, 2020 ©maison parisienne

Endeavouring to experiment beyond the boundaries of art and design, the craftsman has created several lighting collections. Both sculptural and functional, the luminaires are entirely unique, handcrafted pieces.

With its soft, warm tones and ever-changing reflections, copper evokes memories of **Hervé Wahlen's** native Algeria. The luminous metal has inspired coppersmiths for centuries, from the shores of the Mediterranean to northern Europe.

Hervé Wahlen now contributes to this rich legacy, infusing his craft with the heritage of goldsmithing and a resolutely modern decorative repertoire.

AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

In 1988, Hervé Wahlen collaborated with the Peruvian artist Fabian Sanchez to create a monumental work for the Olympic Games in Seoul. Since then, the international acclaim of his work has continued to flourish.

Hervé Wahlen's works grace numerous private collections, including those of Bill Gates, Paloma Picasso and Peter Marino - and esteemed public collections, such as the Fond National d'Art Contemporain de Paris and the DRAC Île-de-France.

In 2021, the Torsion Or lamp joined the prestigious Mobilier National collection. Subsequently, new versions of the Torsion lamp, including Moongold and White Gold, were exhibited at PAD London in 2022 and PAD Paris in 2023.

New creations by Hervé Wahlen are proudly showcased on maison parisienne's stand at PAD Paris and PAD London each year. The artist was also selected by the gallery to participate in its anniversary exhibition, "15 years, 15 artists, 15 works," in April 2024. He created a set of 3 luminous sculptures called *Pas à pas*, which combines the angular shape of the red bricks from Picardy - where his studio is located - with the curves and distortions characteristic of his work.



Torsion Or, 2021 - Mobilier national ©Thibaut Chapotot



Pas à pas - 15 years, 15 artists, 15 works, 2023 © incent Leroux



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