

L'Oseraie de l'Île

THE NATURAL WONDER OF WICKER WEAVING



For more than a decade, **Karen Gossart** and **Corentin Laval** have combined their savoir-faire and imagination by weaving a totally natural material, wicker, which they grow themselves on their wicker farm in the Gironde region of France.

PRESS RELEASE



Working together closely, the creators have renewed the ancestral art of basket weaving, using traditional techniques and tools. From baskets and totems to wall panels, their works showcase an infinite variety of organic forms inspired by nature.

Under the name **L'Oseraie de l'île**, Karen Gossart and Corentin Laval have been represented by the gallery, **maison parisienne**, since 2021.

FROM CULTURE TO ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Before deciding to settle at **L'Oseraie de l'île** in 2012, Karen Gossart and Corentin Laval took different career paths to get there.

After graduating from the Fine Arts School in Cergy, the young woman pursued further education at the École Nationale d'Osiériculture et de Vannerie de Fayl-Billot in Haute-Marne. There, she discovered the various techniques of the art of wickerwork and a material perfectly suited to her creative aspirations.

As for Corentin, he began his weaving apprenticeship with a Perigordian “papé” keen to pass on his technique known as “bouyricou”, named after a local wicker basket. He developed this practice and turned it into a more contemporary form of expression.

Karen Gossart and Corentin Laval say that they are farmers, craftsmen and artists all rolled into one. Indeed, they are unique in that they control the entire creative process, cultivating the raw materials just a stone's throw from their workshop on the banks of the Garonne. From planting to harvesting, including painstaking maintenance, sorting and baling, this virtuous “short circuit” approach brilliantly responds to current environmental concerns.

Twenty or so varieties of wicker with different characteristics (colour, strength, flexibility) feed the imagination of the **L'Oseraie de l'île** duo and help them develop their expertise.



BETWEEN STRENGTH AND LIGHTNESS

Each work is preceded by drawings, research on form and technical sketches, all of which are recorded in notebooks that are always close at hand. The ideas flow and need to be captured, as the pieces may be completed several months later. A play of curves and movement emerges from the spiral weaving of the wicker stems. Like a finely-tuned choreography, the two artists work together at different stages, depending on their respective emotions.



Baskets in new shapes, mysterious totems, graphic wall pieces... The sculptural objects from **L'Oseraie de l'île** are all unique and share the same elegance. The wicker is transformed, the chromatic nuances are intense. The curves are fully embraced.

Wicker is difficult to work with because of its robustness, but their dexterity allows them to produce an exceptionally delicate finish.



CELEBRATING THE TALENT OF A CREATIVE DUO

Open-minded and inquisitive, Karen Gossart and Corentin Laval continue to work with what can best be described as a holistic approach. Since 2016, they have regularly been in residence with Michelin-starred chef Alexandre Gauthier at his La Grenouillère restaurant in La Madeleine-sous Montreuil. In 2020, Martell in Cognac called on them to decorate its precious collection of vintage Dame-Jeanne wines with wickerwork.

The designers have won numerous awards, including a special prize in the “Artistic Form” category at the 4th World Basketry Festival in Nowy Tomysl, Poland, in 2019. They also take part in numerous exhibitions in France and Europe.

After taking part in ‘Next of Europe’, as part of Homo Faber in Venice in 2022, and the ‘Jeux de courbes’ exhibition in Germany at the Dalhausen Museum in 2022, the next monographic exhibition ‘Spirales’ will be dedicated to their work at the Mas de Barberans Palm Museum in Catalonia in 2024.

For **maison parisienne**, Karen Gossart and Corentin Laval create works specially for the gallery. Each year they are exhibited at prestigious shows in Paris (PAD Paris and Révélation) and London (PAD London and Collect). Their works also feature in the ‘La Promenade du Collectionneur’ exhibitions organised by the gallery in exceptional locations such as the Hôtel Solvay in Brussels and the Ferme Saint-François in Megève.



PRESS CONTACT

Phoebe Taschner-Baldwin - phoebe@alexandrpr.com

+33 (0) 1 47 58 08 03

www.alexandrpr.com