



maison parisienne

PIERRE RENART
WOODWORK VIRTUOSO



22Bishopsgate, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse

The superbly gifted young designer Pierre Renart is reinventing the conventions of woodworking. Continually experimenting with transformation techniques, Pierre Renart produces an astonishing range of designs that never neglect the element of functionality.

Pierre Renart has been represented exclusively by maison parisienne since 2011 and many of his remarkable pieces are included in various prestigious private and public collections, including the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and the Mobilier National in Paris.

EVOLUTION OF A VISION

In 2011, Pierre Renart graduated from Paris' École Boulle with a first-class diploma in woodworking. He won over the jury with his *Genèse armchair*, made from carbon fiber, resin and leather, based on the free interpretation of an Art Deco model by Raymond Gillet.

The armchair reflects the way in which Pierre Renart has created all his pieces of furniture, combining the affordances of technology with the virtue of craftsmanship. The designer likes to think outside the box, freeing himself from certain artisanal conventions, while respecting the traditions of the decorative arts. In addition to his manual skills, years of study at the Ecole Boulle developed his understanding of the evolution of furniture styles and the heritage of the greatest furniture makers from the 17th century to recent times.



Genèse armchair, Genèse collection, 2011



Secrétaire Vesta desk, Contraste collection 2012 ©maison parisienne

BIRTH OF A STYLE

Pierre Renart began with a focus on seating furniture due to his exploration of ergonomics and because it was so relevant to working with curves. Soon after, however, the curve was introduced to other pieces of his furniture, such as the *Vesta secretary desk* (2012) in Corian and American walnut. Like the *Genèse armchair*, it unites two materials that could be considered antinomic; the first is a recently invented composite, the second is natural and age-old.

It was this encounter that inspired Pierre Renart. Sensual to the touch, the two materials enter into a symbiosis and exist without the need for embellishment. They reveal a distinct purity and a quest for simplicity: central to the designer's work.

HONOURING THE CURVE



Möbius console table, Ruban collection, 2020
at Mobilier National ©Isabelle Bideau

Pierre Renart's style flourished in 2013 with the creation of the *Möbius console* (Ruban collection), a now iconic piece. Like an infinite loop, the piece refers to the Möbius strip, named after the mathematician who discovered this two-dimensional non-orientable surface. Behind the aesthetic perfection lies a true technical feat, permeated with poetry.

Initially, the work consisted of a carbon fibre structure to which a wood veneer was applied. After extensive research, both in terms of form and material, Pierre Renart developed more eco-friendly solutions: the *Möbius console table* is now made entirely of very thin layers of glued laminated wood.

For Pierre Renart, nothing is ever set in stone. His constant experimentation ensures that his furniture evolves. The shapes continue to develop, shifting between simplicity and sophistication. This is the case for each piece of the Fusion collection, designed by Pierre Renart in 2021 to mark the 10th anniversary of his artistic career.

The designer unveiled a new version of his *Genèse armchair* on maison parisienne's stand at PAD London in October 2022. In keeping with his ethical approach, he replaced the carbon fibre with natural American walnut, adapting the curves to the allowance of the wood. The work from his youth is now a mature masterpiece.



Wave desk, Ruban collection, 2020
©maison parisienne



Symbiose shelf, Fusion collection, 2021
©maison parisienne

A STYLISED APPROACH

With boundless inspiration, Pierre Renart has revived the art of woodworking. After only a few years, he has introduced a new aesthetic vocabulary based on organic forms. Pierre Renart's style is both bold and timeless and is expressed in three signature collections. All of his pieces complement and harmonise with each other.



Écllosion coffee table, Genèse collection, 2020 at Mobilier National ©Isabelle Bideau

GENÈSE

The first collection designed by Pierre Renart, Genèse is characterised by the finesse of the delicately curved wooden strips that are juxtaposed and intertwined. These singular lines create a kinetic effect that can be seen on the *Genèse armchair* and the *Écllosion tables* that make up this collection.



Möbius console table, Ruban collection, 2022 ©maison parisienne

RUBAN

Since 2013, Pierre Renart's Ruban collection features variations on another visual element: a seamless strip of wood that wraps around itself infinitely, like a loop or a wave. The lines of the Möbius and Wave collections perfectly illustrate this concept. The twisting of each piece is a real technical feat, highlighting the softness and flexibility of the wood in all its density.



Fusion side table, Fusion collection, 2021 ©maison parisienne

FUSION

In 2021, Pierre Renart designed the Fusion collection, a unique combination of Genèse and Ruban, where the wooden strips move apart, then come together and merge with one another. In an elegant and perfectly natural movement, the artist's signature is once again expressed through sculptural creations, including several console tables and wall pieces that create a strong sense of rhythm in space.



Wooden Genèse armchair, Genèse collection, 2022 ©maison parisienne

THE WORKSHOP

In his workshop near Blois in France's Loire Valley, Pierre Renart makes his own small-scale models which allow him to study new shapes while testing the possibilities and strengths of the wood. Highly intuitive, he is able to visualise the finished piece at this stage.

The woodworker employs the glued laminated wood technique, which consists of layering thin sheets of wood that are held together with resin. This complex creative process strikes the perfect balance between rigidity and flexibility, resulting in the most spectacular works.

Pierre Renart uses several types of wood: padauk, oak, teak, rosewood and above all natural or tinted American walnut, which he appreciates for the graphic effects of its contrast of light and dark veins.

Due to the impressive size of this tree, it is possible to obtain large sheets of wood, essential for manufacturing the *Möbius console* with its 6 metre long, ribbon-like length.

The collections are made up of different pieces of furniture, from armchairs and shelves to consoles and coffee tables. All of the pieces are unique and can be made to measure to meet the requirements of an interior designer, a collector or a site-specific space.

This was the case at the end of 2022 at Sotheby's Real Estate (rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris) with the installation of a bench from the Ruban collection and desks from the Harcourt collection.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Represented by *maison parisienne* since his graduation from the *École Boulle* in 2011, **Pierre Renart** has formed a close bond with the founder of the nomadic gallery, **Florence Guiller-Bernard**. She regularly exhibits his work in exceptional locations in Paris, Brussels, London, Dubai, New York, as well as at fairs such as PAD in Paris and London.

In 2019, the *Möbius console* in American walnut, entered the permanent collection of the MAD Paris- Musée des Arts Décoratifs, and in 2021, it joined the collection of the Palais des Rois de Sardaigne in Nice.

During the same period, **Pierre Renart** created seven unique pieces of furniture for the lobby of 22 Bishopsgate, a high-rise building in London. From the Ruban collection, these works are both sculptural and functional (high tables, benches, reception desks).

Since spring 2021, **Pierre Renart** has been working with Longchamp. The *Wave coffee table* (Ruban collection) is presented in various sizes and finishes adapted to the space.

In 2023, it was the turn of the *Écllosion high table* to be acquired by the Mobilier National. It joined the *Möbius console* in padouk and the *Écllosion coffee table* in American walnut, which have been held by this institution since 2020.

At the exhibition “15 years, 15 artists, 15 works” by *maison parisienne* at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, **Pierre Renart** presented a monumental and complex piece, in a new type of wood: the *Wave chaise longue* in Ziricote.

In constant reflection, **Pierre Renart** appreciates confronting unique places. This source of inspiration pushes him to imagine ever more innovative projects.



Mérienne Wave - 15 years, 15 artists, 15 works, 2023 ©Vincent Leroux



22Bishopsgate London, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse



22Bishopsgate London, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse



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