

Prisca

METAL TAKES A NEW TURN





Prisca Razafindrakoto, or simply **Prisca**, has succeeded in challenging many preconceptions about metal, which is often seen as cold, stiff and lacklustre. In her hands, thanks to her creativity and dexterity, the material becomes delicate, colourful, soft to the touch and as light as a leaf.

This transformative approach has captivated **Florence Guillier Bernard** who, since 2022, has been exhibiting the artist's furniture regularly at the **maison parisienne's** exhibitions in Paris, London and Brussels.

BETWEEN CRAFT AND DESIGN

After training in product design at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art (ENSAAMA Olivier de Serres), **Prisca** joined the school's metal workshop after discovering the art of copperware and sheet metal work. She experimented with a number of techniques for transforming the material, including pressing, shrinking and stretching. The resulting sheet of metal is soft and sensual, allowing her to put her creative ideas into practice.

Since 2019, **Prisca** has been based in a studio near Paris, and defines herself as both a craftswoman and a designer. Her work revolves around two themes: inflated and coloured

metal. Firstly, **Prisca** uses a process from the automotive industry: pressurised air injection. The compressed metal takes on a lively, dynamic form, with random deformations that make each piece of furniture or object unique.

The colour obtained by heating the sheet with a flame produces shades ranging from pearl grey to fuchsia, yellow or orange. Each temperature has its own shade, each metal has its own colour range. Copper is **Prisca's** favourite metal. Highly malleable and easy to weld, its warm, positive tones are a source of inspiration for the designer.

A MIX OF INSPIRATIONS

Of Franco-Malagasy origin, **Prisca** is also inspired by the fusion of cultures and a vast world of sensations created by her travels in Africa and her learning of tribal arts. Abolishing the boundaries of time and space, the craftswoman is interested in the Arts Deco movement and the Bauhaus, where she admires Marianne Brandt's sleek metal pieces for their elegant, feminine lines.

Prisca's multi-faceted approach to art also reflects the diversity of her artistic practices. Halfway between sculpture and design, she plays with the semantic limits of the object. Illustration, 3D software, manual work in the studio, firing temperatures and times - **Prisca** never tires of experimenting to enrich her formal vocabulary and colour palette.

A RECOGNISED UNIQUENESS

In 2022, her 510-Cu chair, designed for the first "Les Aliénés" exhibition, became part of the permanent collections of the Mobilier National. That same year, **Prisca** began her collaboration with **maison parisienne** by exhibiting at PAD London.

Gallery founder **Florence Guillier Bernard** has commissioned three of her school chairs for the Promenade du Collectionneur at the Hôtel Solvay in Brussels in early 2023. United under the name Trio Solvay, these works echo the colours of the decor of the famous Art Nouveau building.

The artist's work is on show at Espace Communes as part of Paris Design Week 2023, and at the Banque de France in Paris (Hôtel de Toulouse) during the Heritage Days in September.

