



maison parisienne

PIERRE RENART
WOODWORK VIRTUOSO



Pierre Renart, 22Bishopgate, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse

A superbly gifted young designer, Pierre Renart is reinventing the conventions of woodworking. He continually experiments with new transformation techniques and has assembled an astonishing range of designs without ever neglecting functionality.

In barely a decade of creation, the designer has already produced some truly remarkable pieces.

Represented exclusively by maison parisienne gallery since 2011, his work is included in various prestigious private and public collections, including the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and the Mobilier National in Paris.

GENESIS 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 audacity of technology with the nobility of craftsmanship. The designer likes to think outside the box, freeing himself from certain artisanal conventions, even though he respects and adheres to the traditions of the decorative arts. In addition to his manual abilities, his years of study at the Ecole Boulle taught him the evolution of furniture styles, the heritage of the greatest furniture makers from the 17th century to more recent times.



Pierre Renart, *Genèse armchair*, coll. Genèse, 2011



Pierre Renart, *Vesta secretary desk*, coll. Contraste 2012 ©maison parisienne

BIRTH OF A STYLE

Pierre Renart started out by focusing on seated furniture because it raised questions about ergonomics and was suitable for working with curves. Soon, however, the curve was introduced into other pieces of his furniture, such as the *Vesta secretary desk* (2012) in Corian and American walnut. Like the *Genèse armchair*, it brings together two materials that could be considered antinomic; the first is a recently invented composite, the second natural and age-old.

It was this confrontation that inspired Pierre Renart. Sensual to the touch, the two materials enter in symbiosis and exist without the need for ornamentation. They reveal a formal purity and a quest for simplicity that are central to the designer's work.

IN PRAISE OF THE CURVE



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, permeated with poetry, lies a true technical feat.

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

Nothing is ever set in stone; constant experimentation ensures that the furniture evolves. The shapes continue to change, shifting between simplicity and sophistication. This is the case for all the pieces in the Fusion collection, designed by Pierre Renart in 2021 to mark the 10th anniversary of his career.

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

Pierre Renart, *Möbius console*, coll. Ruban, 2020
at Mobilier National ©Isabelle Bideau



Pierre Renart, *Wave desk*, coll. Ruban, 2020
©maison parisienne



Pierre Renart, *Symbiose shelf*, coll. Fusion, 2021
©maison parisienne

EXERCISES IN STYLE

With boundless inspiration, Pierre Renart has revived the art of woodworking. It has taken him only a few years to invent a new aesthetic vocabulary based on organic forms. His style is both bold and timeless and is expressed in three signature collections whose pieces complement and harmonise each other.



Pierre Renart, *Écllosion coffee table*, coll. Genèse, 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.



Pierre Renart, *Möbius console*, coll. Ruban, 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.



Pierre Renart, *Fusion side table*, coll. Fusion, 2021 ©maison parisienne

FUSION

In 2021, Pierre Renart designed the Fusion collection, a unique combination of Genèse and Ruban, where the wooden slats move apart, 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.



Pierre Renart, *Wooden Genèse Armchair*, coll. Genèse, 2022 ©maison parisienne

WORKSHOP/LABORATORY

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. Being very intuitive, he can already visualise the finished piece of furniture at this stage.

The cabinetmaker works with 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 its contrast of light and dark veins, and the graphic effects they produce.

The impressive size of this tree makes it possible to obtain large sheets of wood, which are essential for the manufacture of the *Möbius console* with its 6 meter ribbon-like length.

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

This will be 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.



Pierre Renart at 22Bishopgate London, 2022 ©Bénédicte Drummond



22Bishopgate London, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse



22Bishopgate Londons, 2019 ©Jack Hobhouse

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Represented by maison parisienne since his graduation from the École Boulle in 2011, Pierre Renart has established a close relationship with the founder of the nomadic gallery, Florence Guiller Bernard. She is very dynamic and regularly exhibits his work in some of the most extraordinary venues in Paris, Brussels, London, Dubai and New York, as well as at trade fairs such as PAD in Paris and London.

In 2019, an American walnut version of the *Möbius console*, was added to the permanent collection of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. The following year, the Mobilier National acquired two works by Pierre Renart: a *Möbius console* in padouk and an *Écllosion coffee table* in American walnut.

During this same period, Pierre Renart created seven unique pieces of furniture for the lobby of a building in the City of London, the 22 Bishopsgate. The pieces, from the Ruban collection, are both sculptural and utilitarian (high tables, benches, reception desks) and punctuate the space with a strong presence.

Since spring 2021, Pierre Renart has collaborated with the brand Longchamp. The *Wave coffee table* (Ruban collection) is presented in different sizes and finishes depending on the space.

In a constant state of reflection, Pierre Renart relishes the confrontation with such unique spaces, a source of emulation that pushes him to conceive ever more innovative projects.



ALEXANDRA PUBLIC RELATIONS

Press contact

Stephanie Basten - stephanie@alexandrapr.com

+33 (0)1 47 58 08 03

www.alexandrapr.com