

# Julian Schwarz

## THE POWER AND TRUTH OF WOOD



Sculpture Legged Urn ©maison parisienne



Sculpture Ribbed Oval ©maison parisienne



Sculpture Classic Walnut Urn ©maison parisienne

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Born in Birmingham in 1949, **Julian Schwarz** is a master sculptor and woodcarver. As the grandson of a carpenter and raised by a painter father, he was immersed in the world of craftsmanship from an early age. In the 1970s, he embarked on a creative journey, making his way to the renowned Slade School of Fine Art in London, where he studied a multitude of artistic disciplines including wood engraving.

Living and working in France, **Julian Schwarz** now devotes his time to wood sculpture. Every day, he confronts raw materials in their purest form, using logs or tree trunks that he collects from sawmills and farms nearby his studio in Burgundy.

The natural shape and unexpected imperfections guide his creative choices, often altering his initial intentions as sketched in his notebooks.

Julian Schwarz has been represented by maison parisienne since 2023.



## “I AM GUIDED BY THE WOOD”

Julian Schwarz’s approach to his preferred medium is truly physical.

It all begins with a carefully selected tree trunk (such as oak or cherry, among other species), which he cracks open using steel splitting wedges to obtain half-logs. Then, it takes time and patience to transform and hollow out the mass, gradually revealing a form.

In the spirit of the dugout canoe carvers and shipwrights he admires, Julian Schwarz relies solely on manual and traditional tools: a large saw, axe, adze, chisel, gouge, and others. As the artwork takes shape, the artist liberates himself from preliminary sketches and drawings. He overcomes the constraints and technical challenges posed by the wood, continuing his interaction with this venerable material, which he appreciates for its “silence”.

## A VOCABULARY OF UNIQUE FORMS

In their seemingly simple appearance, Julian Schwarz’s pieces unveil a hidden complexity, meticulously constructed using specially devised joints. Regardless of their size, they exude a monumental presence, intensified by the simplicity of their forms. This purity reflects Julian Schwarz’s affinity for Romanesque art, embracing an absence of artifice.

From bowls and urns to chalices, Julian Schwarz often says that he prefers to create “vessels rather than tableware”. Utility and sculptural strength are in perfect harmony. Each artwork is unique, accentuated by graceful curves, intriguing angles, or meticulously hollowed-out sections. In certain places, traces of tools serve as a reminder of the genesis of his creation.

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Julian Schwarz’s work achieved the coveted prize ‘Exceptional Talents for the Intelligence of the Hand’ from the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation in 2010 and is now part of the public collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London as well as the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Julian Schwarz’s creations are highlighted by maison parisienne at prestigious events such as PAD Paris and PAD London. In April 2024, during the gallery’s anniversary exhibition, “15 years, 15 artists, 15 works” at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, the artist presented *Wooven Erable*, a grand wooden sculpture evoking the illusion of weaving.



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