

# Simone Pheulpin

METAMORPHOSIS OF THE FOLD



Simone Pheulpin - *Falaise I*, 2012 and *Anfractuosité I*, 2013 © Antoine Lippens

PRESS RELEASE



For more than 50 years, Simone Pheulpin has used her imagination and dexterity to create extraordinary textile sculptures. Kilometres of raw cotton is meticulously folded and pinned to give rise to works of natural, mineral or vegetal appearance, where the material is transformed beyond recognition. Though monochrome, these instinctive creations offer surprising effects of light and shadow thanks to their uneven, textured surface. They have a strong, even spectral presence, that seems to defy time.

Represented exclusively by maison parisienne since 2008, Simone Pheulpin's work can be found in important private collections, institutions and museums including the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. The artist has also been awarded many prestigious prizes.

## SYMBIOSIS WITH NATURE

Born in Nancy in 1941, Simone Pheulpin grew up in the Vosges region of France. The landscapes of lakes, mountains and nature are for her inexhaustible sources of inspiration. Nature, with its layers of life and cracks, reveals a singular artistic vocabulary through a play on metamorphoses.

It is also in the Vosges region that the artist sources the cotton from one of the last remaining spinning mills. The pins she uses are sourced from the Bohin factory, a quality French manufacturer.





Simone Pheulpin - *Écllosion XXL*, 2017 © maison parisienne



Simone Pheulpin © Sophie Bassouls

## AN ODE TO MATERIAL

Self-taught, Simone Pheulpin has developed her own technique, which she continues to perfect. The meticulous work of layering, wrapping and stretching the fabric is a true meditative process for the artist. In the silence of creation, time seems to be abolished by a succession of gestures that are both precise and spontaneous.

Concealing a framework of interlocking pins, the strips of natural fabric are transformed into striking organic trompe l'oeil, taking on the appearance of limestone, ceramic, shell, coral, bark, ivory, moss, foam or fossil material. Among an infinite number of shapes and volumes, each textile piece is unique, whether it is a mural or a sculpture.

## INNER BEAUTY

Simone Pheulpin's pieces are a succession of works that complement each other and are constantly in the process of renewal. By using X-rays for example, the artist succeeds in creating a new form of expression. Like a metamorphosis, this process reveals the inner architecture of her sculptures. Without the outer cotton material, the metal structure, which is usually invisible to the naked eye becomes visible, revealing new and fascinatingly ethereal work.



Simone Pheulpin - Vaisseau (Détail VII), 2021 - Radiographie © Éditions Cercle d'Art

Simone Pheulpin - Exposition *Pleuse de Temps*, 2022 - MAD Paris © Christophe Dellière



## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The sobriety of Simone Pheulpin's work intrigues as much as it fascinates. Today, her sculptures are unanimously recognised throughout the world and are included in prestigious private collections, including those of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Loewe Foundation in Madrid and the Galila Collection in Brussels.

Several works are held in the permanent collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London (Eclipse XII), the Art Institute of Chicago (Strates IV), the Mobilier National and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris (Jérôme, Écllosion Épingles and Détail VII). The latter devoted a solo exhibition to the artist to mark her 80th birthday, bringing together some fifty pieces. This exhibition saw the publication of the artist's monograph by Cercle d'Art, which was reissued in 2022.

Simone Pheulpin - *Croissance I*, 2007 © Antoine Lippens





Simone Pheulpin - *Triptyque*, 2020 © Antoine Lippens

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