

Aude Franjou

LINEN AS A THREAD OF ARIADNE

mp
maison parisienne



PRESS RELEASE



Renowned artist Aude Franjou has masterfully preserved the ancient craft of tapestry, breathing new life into it with a distinctly minimalist approach. She has chosen to set aside traditional looms, patterns, and other artefacts, instead immersing herself in an artistic exploration of natural construction.

From this dedication to simplicity and restraint, Aude Franjou creates captivating modular compositions in linen. Her artwork showcases knots, roots, vines, and meandering paths, all of which serve as a testament to her profound connection with nature, an enduring source of inspiration.

Since January 2023 and the spectacular "Promenade du collectionneur" at the Hotel Solvay in Brussels, the artist's work has been regularly showcased by Florence Guillier Bernard, founder of maison parisienne, in exceptional locations. For the gallery's anniversary exhibition, "15 years, 15 artists, 15 works", Aude Franjou adorned the space with burgundy red roots that symbolise the connection she has with maison parisienne.

FROM NATURE TO SCULPTURE

Born in 1975, Aude Franjou holds a degree in art history and received her training in tapestry at the Duperré School of Applied Arts in Paris. Since 1999, she has been devoted to sculptural work with linen, discarding the frame loom to lay threads directly on the floor.

Franjou's artistic quest revolves around three-dimensional structures, the creation of volumes, and reliefs, mirroring the intricate and loose lines of a unique textile composition. Using natural fibres was a natural choice, reminiscent of her childhood in the countryside, where fields of linen would bloom with white, blue, and pink flowers each spring. Memories of ropes from boats moored in the port of La Cotinière on the island of Oléron have also left an indelible mark on her.

Working with linen allows Aude Franjou to touch, shape, knead, relax, and stretch the material solely through the power of her hands and imagination. She employs a coating technique, wrapping raw linen fibres with a finer thread made from the same fibres. This process is performed tirelessly, repeated twenty times, a hundred times regardless of weather conditions: Intense heat softens the material, while cold and humidity have the opposite effect, stiffening it.



Grand Nid d'Encre I, 2022 ©Bénédicte Drummond



Rouge Opéra - 15 years, 15 artists, 15 works, 2023 ©Vincent Leroux

A QUEST FOR INFINITY

The effect of the tension petrifies the linen, allowing Aude Franjou to sculpt and expand shapes by playing with interlacing, twists, and distortions. The final piece takes on a tentacular appearance, offering limitless possibilities of scale. Each module resembles a vegetal growth, almost as if nature itself has taken over. This echoes the environment in which the creator aspires to live sustainably – nestled in the heart of a forested area rich in its variety of trees and fragrant plants.

Inspired by the expansive taiga landscapes lined with birch trees, maritime pines, and white sand pathways, Aude Franjou's aesthetic references are deeply rooted in the beauty of the natural world.

In addition to her artistic process, Franjou also utilises pigments, including pastels, extracted from nature for the hot dyeing of specific works. Colour serves as the final touch, enhancing volume and emphasising texture. She thoughtfully explores the light resistance and symbolism of each chosen tone, such as her discovery during a stay in Korea in 2013 that red was associated with joy, prosperity, and lineage.

Whether in blue, white, black, or yellow, the use of various colours infuses Franjou's sculptures with subtle nuances. Each infused with her profound emotions and boundless imagination, Aude Franjou's textile art reveals a unique manifestation of nature.

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