

Jérôme Blanc

THE WOOD ILLUSIONIST



maison parisienne



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PRESS RELEASE



Arantèle Walnut Sculpture ©maison parisienne

Wood turner and sculptor, Jérôme Blanc is a master of illusion when it comes to working with this material. Elegant and delicate, his objects both captivate and deceive the eye. Is it fabric, glass, bronze, or, in truth, wood? Only touch can tell.

However, the sensory experience transcends the visual deception, inviting contemplation. Each of Jérôme Blanc's works draws inspiration from the history of the tree as seen in its growth rings.

The artist has been represented by maison parisienne since 2011, regularly showcasing his work at PAD Paris and PAD London, as well as in Brussels during the Promenade du Collectionneur at Hôtel Solvay and at the Collect fair in London.

He was also selected by the gallery for its anniversary exhibition "15 years, 15 artists, 15 works" for which he pushed the limits of his craftsmanship by imagining the trio of works called *Tribu*, in solid carved and stained oak.

FROM THE FOREST TO THE STUDIO

Born in Geneva in 1978, Jérôme Blanc was introduced to manual labour at an early age in his father's locksmith workshop. After receiving training in cabinetmaking and carpentry at the École des Arts et Métiers in Geneva (degrees earned in 1998 and 1999), he travelled to Australia, where he discovered contemporary wood sculpture and turning—a passion that has stayed with him since he opened his studio in Carouge in 2001.

In a highly instinctive approach, Jérôme Blanc goes directly into the forest to find the solid wood required for his inspiration. Walnut, ash, yew, or maple, he uses only local species. The raw and moist wood is allowed to dry in the workshop before naturally warping and being shaped through the use of tools such as the gouge and chisel.



Xylogie Vase I ©maison parisienne



Onde Sculpture ©maison parisienne

Beforehand, Jérôme Blanc sketches his ideas and explores shapes in a sketchbook using simple coloured pencils. The artist hollows out the raw pieces until he has a surface no thicker than a sheet of paper. On these few grams of material, he meticulously sculpts clean lines and geometric motifs, reminiscent of cabalistic signs. This enigmatic script also helps to blur appearances.



CELEBRATING METAMORPHOSIS

Revealing a unique interplay of light and textures, each wooden object possesses a distinct aesthetic. The kinetic effects are hypnotic, particularly in the works inspired by webs, a shape the artist holds dear, which is achieved through a long and perilous process of wood turning blind.

Jérôme Blanc takes the exercise of metamorphosis a step further by delving into the realms of glass and bronze, collaborating with exceptional artisans. The gaze scrutinizes, the eye questions... the glass piece is unmasked through its unparalleled transparency; the same cannot be said for the bronze piece, where patina work and opacity bewilder the senses.

The artist continually expands his field of experimentation and now directs his research toward new technologies, such as laser cutting and 3D printing, without relinquishing manual craftsmanship and artisanal expertise. He is gradually constructing a captivating, polymorphic body of work.