

# Jérôme Blanc

THE WOODEN ILLUSIONIST



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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 the 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 2018, 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.

## 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.



Xyologie Vase I ©maison parisienne



Onde Sculpture ©maison parisienne

Beforehand, **Jérôme Blanc** sketches his ideas and explores shapes in a sketchbook using simple coloured pencils. Then the artist carves meticulously refined lines and geometric patterns on the raw pieces of wood until the crevice is no thicker than a sheet of paper. This enigmatic style also contributes to obscuring 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 works inspired by the arantèle, a beloved figure to the creator, achieved through long and perilous blind turning.

**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.

Aiguines Sculpture ©Dylan Perrenoud

*“ Wood never ceases to surprise me. It can be both soft and hard, brittle and flexible. It can take on the appearance of fabric, stone, or ceramic. ”*

Jérôme Blanc



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