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PLACE DE LA BASTILLE


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Coraux de la Liberté

Paris Design Week
4 - 13 September 2025

PRESS RELEASE



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The gallery maison parisienne unveils a striking installation during Paris Design Week

Florence Guillier Bernard, founder of maison parisienne, stages a symbolic and aesthetic “storming of the Bastille” for Paris Design Week 2025. Following the Hôtel de la Marine in September 2024, the gallery now sets its sights on an exclusive and iconic Parisian monument: the July Column and its famed winged Spirit of Liberty, overlooking Place de la Bastille.

For this first-ever exhibition within the historic column and through an exceptional curatorial vision, Florence Guillier Bernard has invited textile artist Aude Franjou to create a spectacular installation: “Coraux de la Liberté” (Corals of Liberty). Entirely handcrafted from linen thread, the work consists of dozens of coral-like branches unfurling within the internal rotunda, stretching from floor to ceiling. A subtle gradient of colour, shifting from immaculate white to a deep red, evokes a powerful metaphor of rebirth – an ascension towards life.

The theme resonates deeply with the site’s typology and historical context. Commissioned by Napoleon I in 1806, the original intention was to build a monumental fountain celebrating liberty and the arrival of water in Paris, via the Ourcq and Saint-Martin canals beneath the square. The fountain’s base now serves as the foundation for the July Column, erected in 1835.

“Coraux de la Liberté” installation by maison parisienne
 July Column, Place de la Bastille, Paris 4th arrondissement
 Visits by appointment only, from 4–13 September 2025
 Registration at: maisonparisienne.fr

An immersive reef, “Coraux de la Liberté” is a tour de force entirely sculpted by hand by Aude Franjou over a period of more than six months. The creation also stands as a heartfelt tribute to artisanal tradition, celebrating a rare savoir-faire passionately championed by the gallery maison parisienne.



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“Tempus fugit – time flies – but memory endures. Where once light played in a thousand vibrant hues, only complex forms remain, bleached by time. This exhibition invites us to reflect on our place in a changing world – on liberty, on rights, and today, on the duty to restore balance. Life, sometimes lying dormant in silence, longs to reclaim its place and offer us its marvels once more.”
– Aude Franjou, textile artist

About

Aude Franjou



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With a degree in art history and formal training in tapestry from the Duperré School of Applied Arts in Paris, Aude Franjou has devoted herself to sculptural work using linen thread since 1999.

She kneads, loosens, and re-tightens this natural fibre using nothing but her hands and imagination. Employing a wrapping technique, she envelops coarse linen fibres with a finer thread – twenty, even a hundred times, the same gesture repeated, whatever the conditions: warmth lends it pliability, while cold and humidity cause it to stiffen. The resulting tension sets the linen. From there, the artist shapes each form through interweaving, twisting, and distorting – sometimes delicately, sometimes with tentacular boldness.

Root, seaweed, vine – each piece reveals a new dimension. Inspired by coral, Aude Franjou's recent sculptures mark the beginning of a new creative cycle. A first large-scale installation, 2°C, was unveiled during Nuit Blanche in Paris in June 2024. There, coral forms sculpted in linen thread – at first white and lifeless – gradually became reanimated through colour, as though regenerating before our eyes.

About

maison parisienne

Founded in 2008 by Florence Guillier Bernard, maison parisienne champions artists of material and masters of exceptional savoir-faire. The gallery represents around 20 artists and craftspeople, including Pierre Renart, Simone Pheulpin, Gérald Vatrín, and Hervé Wahlen. Combining technical precision, an aesthetic vision, and a spirit of innovation, these talents express themselves through signature materials such as wood, textile, glass, ceramics, paper, feathers, and more.

Ranging from furniture and sculptures to decorative objects and murals, maison parisienne's collections consist of unique, limited-editions, or bespoke, commissioned creations. This rarity is the guarantee of complete artistic freedom and a pursuit of a certain timelessness. It also defines Florence Guillier Bernard's vision of luxury: a blend of daring, diligence, and precision.

The work of maison parisienne is recognised by collectors as well as prestigious private and public collections. Pieces by Simone Pheulpin, Pierre Renart, and Gérald Vatrín are part of the permanent collections of the MAD (Musée des Arts Décoratifs) in Paris, the Mobilier National, the V&A (Victoria and Albert Museum) in London, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Dutch National Glass Museum in Leerdam, among other institutions.

A nomadic gallery, maison parisienne presents its rich and diverse talents in exclusive locations, where the pieces naturally converse in a carefully curated setting. Since its inception, Florence Guillier Bernard has organised over 70 exhibitions in Paris, London, Brussels, Monaco, and Geneva.



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About

The Centre des Monuments Nationaux



The Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN) is a public institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Culture. Founded in 1914 and funded by the state, it preserves, manages, and opens to the public more than 100 national monuments, spanning from Prehistory to the 20th century – including such landmarks as Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, Sainte-Chapelle, the Arc de Triomphe, the Hôtel de la Marine, and the Colonne de Juillet.

These monuments welcome over 11 million visitors each year. With nearly 450 events annually – including exhibitions, performances, and cultural activities – the CMN plays an active role in integrating national monuments into cultural life and promoting tourism.

It also fulfils a public publishing mission through its imprint, Éditions du Patrimoine, significantly contributing to the appreciation and promotion of heritage through the publication of visitor guides, illustrated books, monographs on architects and buildings, children's books, and works adapted for blind and visually impaired readers, as well as for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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Press contact

Phoebe Taschner-Baldwin – phoebe@alexandrapr.com

+33 (0)1 47 58 08 03

www.alexandrapr.com