

FRAGILES COLOSSES

MICHEL BASSOMPIERRE
MONUMENTAL EXHIBITION

BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN

||
HAUSSMANN
PARIS
||

GALERIES
BART OUX



« FRAGILES COLOSSES » - BOULEVARD HAUSSMAN -

The Comité Haussmann Paris and the Galeries Bartoux have joined forces to present an open-air exhibition of 10 monumental sculptures by Michel Bassompierre. This artistic event aims to raise awareness of the fragility of the living world through beauty.

The Comité Haussmann Paris, which brings together the main brands and cultural institutions in the Haussmann district, has joined forces with Galeries Bartoux, a French family group that has distinguished itself for 30 years by its selection of diverse talent from around the world. Faithful to its desire to make the Haussmann district an essential place to live in the capital, the eponymous committee has been developing a policy of artistic events since its creation, aiming to create a unique link with its visitors by inviting them, for a short time, to discover Art. Naturally, the Committee has joined forces with Galeries Bartoux for this event, whose approach is to interact with the public by introducing them to contemporary art.

A master in the art of animal representation, Michel Bassompierre is the epitome of contemporary animal sculpting. The artist transcends bronze and marble to create his bears and gorillas, in curved, organic forms

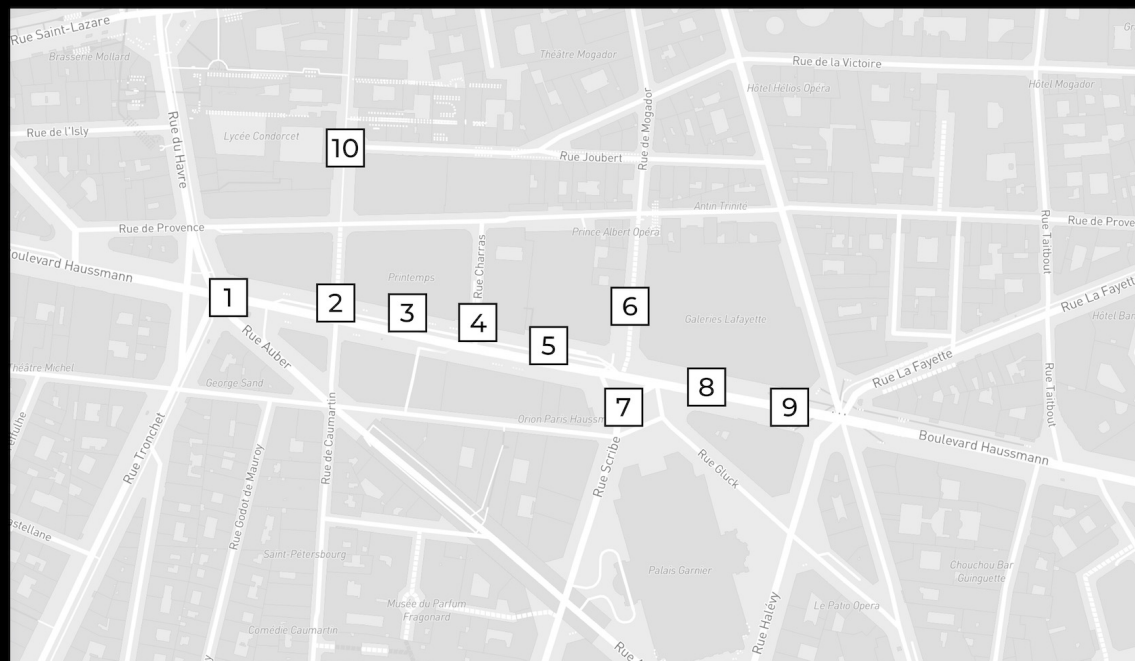
ART TO RECONNECT WITH NATURE

In this exhibition in the heart of the 9th arrondissement of Paris, Michel Bassompierre's monumental bear and gorilla sculptures are emblematic representatives of endangered species. The many threats to these species reveal their extreme fragility. Their habitats, forests and ice floes, are being damaged by the pressure of climate change and human activity. When the populations of these "totem animals" decline, the survival of the thousands of plant and animal species that make up their ecosystems is already compromised.



AN ARTISTIC STROLL ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

LE POURSUIVI	1
LE PATRIARCHE N°1	2
LE PHOQUE N°1	3
LE MIEL N°2	4
LE DOS ARGENTÉ N°7	5
LA BANQUISE N°2	6
LE MÉLÈZE N°2	7
LES SAUMONS N°1	8
LES ABEILLES N°1	9
LA FRATRIE N°1A	10



10



9



8



1



2



3



4



5



6



7





« LA FRATRIE N°1A »

200 x 156 x 142 cm

Resin

*« I was 14 years old when I felt that the animal world was mine.
I already had this need for nature. »*



« LE MÉLÈZE »

400 x 203 x 188 cm

Resin

*« The bear is a very interesting animal because it sometimes
mimics almost human positions »*



« LE POURSUIVI »

200 x 253 x 182 cm

Resin

« For me, sculpture is not something fixed,
on the contrary it's very much alive »



« LE PATRIARCHE N°1 »

200 x 183 x 144 cm

Resin

« What attracts me is the roundness,
the contained power, not the brutality . »



« LE PHOQUE N°1 »

200 x 404 x 127 cm

Resin

« Sculpture is above all the expression of the animal, and the animal is freedom,
the beauty of life. »



« LE DOS ARGENTÉ N°7 »

200 x 215 x 119 cm

Resin

« It's the artwork that makes the artist, not the artist that makes the artwork »



« LE MIEL N°2 »

200 x 175 x 134 cm

Resin

« I am an old child who continues to make his toys. You must carry your childhood dreams until your last days, and even beyond if possible »



« LA BANQUISE N°2 »

200 x 177 x 145 cm

Resin

« I like the roundness of the bear because it captures the light very nicely »



« LES SAUMONS N°1 »

150 x 208 x 96 cm

Resin

« One must want to caress a good sculpture »



« LES ABEILLES N°1 »

200 x 164 x 178 cm

Resin

« The rounded shapes carry themselves very well to sculpture: the power of the animals is enhanced by the play of light and shadows »

EXHIBITION OPENING

On Wednesday 1 February 2023, in the heart of the Boulevard Haussmann, the Comité Haussmann Paris and the Galeries Bartoux celebrated the opening of the exhibition "FRAGILES COLOSSES" in the presence of sculptor Michel Bassompierre and his family.

Delphine Bürkli, Mayor of the 9th arrondissement of Paris, who attended the event, said: « *Thank you for this moment of gratitude and recognition. We are honoured to welcome Michel Bassompierre. It is a dream come true this morning.* » Underlining his artistic and ecological commitment, she was delighted with the arrival of these 10 monumental works which nourish our reflection while inviting us to travel.

WHEN ART & SCIENCE MEET

Sabrina Krief, an inspiration for the exhibition and friend of the artist, took advantage of this moment of conviviality to pass on a message: « *It is the bears and the gorillas that are coming to get us, the city dwellers, to tell us that it is now, not tomorrow, not in 10 years, that we must act.* »

These words were supported by the actor-director Jacques Weber, who added: « *The artistic gesture is complementary to the scientific gesture.* »

Impactful and sincere speeches that bode well for the success of the exhibition!



« LE MÉLÈZE N°2 »

« When Galeries Bartoux proposed a large exhibition of monumental works in Paris in partnership with the Comité Haussmann, I thought I should create a new emblematic sculpture for the occasion: a bear standing on its hind legs, large enough and well placed to be seen by the greatest number of people on one of the capital's most beautiful boulevards.

I brought it to life in my studio, working with clay as usual. This sculpture of about forty centimetres was then enlarged to 4 metres in height. The volume was thus multiplied by 1000.

Placed at the back of the Opéra Garnier on the Place Diaghilev, "Le Mélèze n°2" seems to be rubbing his back on an imaginary trunk, not bothered by the traffic and the crowd of spectators who take his picture.

Perhaps my duty is also to make others admire all these things, these marvels of nature which they pass by without realising it, and perhaps that is the first protection we can offer nature, to share our sense of beauty. » - confides Michel Bassompierre

DISCOVER THE VISUALS OF THE EXHIBITION : <https://bit.ly/3JFGy9g>



« LE MÉLÈZE N°2 », WORK IN PROGRESS





MICHEL BASSOMPIERRE

Michel Bassompierre is one of the most important artists in contemporary animal sculpture. He has infused this discipline with a singular and new style that is recognisable at first sight. Seductive and engaging, his work has travelled the world, sending his bestiary of marble and bronze to the four corners of the globe.

Trained in Leleu's studio at the Rouen School of Fine Arts, Michel Bassompierre learned to look. He made kilos of sketches through which he built his understanding of the animal body, this cleverly articulated machine whose line and movement he grasped. In the tradition of François Pompon, Michel Bassompierre gets rid of the anecdote to go to the essential. Favouring animals with round shapes, Asian elephants, gorillas, bears or even horses, he achieves a form that is both soft and precise, where light never clashes with shadow.

These peaceful animals, which seem to be caught in the intimacy of their lives, are embodied in bronze or Carrara marble according to the traditional codes of sculpture.

The artist has created a powerful work that shows an exceptional mastery of drawing, a perfect understanding of volumes, and a poetic approach to light that gives the viewer an irrepressible desire to caress it. But it is also the tenderness, the respect and the humility of the artist that are revealed in this work of a rare delicacy.





50 YEARS OF CAREER

To mark the 50th anniversary of the artist's career, Galeries Bartoux presented the largest exhibition dedicated to the animal sculptor at the Parisian gallery in October 2021.

« Michel Bassompierre is an artist specialising in animal art with pure, simple and generous lines. His hands sculpt life: that of two bears playing together, that of a gorilla with a pensive look. Michel Bassompierre is an obstinate observer, revealing a movement, an attitude, an emotion. He goes to the essence, making his work so delicate that an irrepressible desire to caress it overwhelms you.

Beyond moving us, his animals carry a message for us humans: to preserve their environment, our planet. In bronze or marble, these peaceful animals between light and shadow force us to stop for a moment. The fascination is immediate, almost childlike. Michel Bassompierre is a dream maker.

It is important for us to promote this return to nature and simplicity in the art world. It is a great pleasure to welcome the artist's work through this solo exhibition and to share it with you. »

SABRINA KRIEF, EXHIBITION GODMOTHER

One of the world's greatest primatologists

She has been a lecturer at the National Museum of Natural History since 2004, conducting research on primates in Uganda and is very active in advocating for the great apes with the public and governments. She leads the Sebitoli Chimpanzee Project in Kibale National Park, Uganda. She is also in charge of the Forest Wildlife Population Consortium in Uganda, which aims to restore harmony between wildlife and local communities through organic and sustainable agriculture.

The primatologist is familiar with the artist's work and says:

« Michel's imposing male gorillas, with their full forms, bear no trace of the human hand. The sculptor offers our eyes polished, smooth bodies, without artifice. The artist has erased all traces of his fingers under which the soft curves were born. Only the postures and looks, the proportions and the emotions remain, so true. Without any trace of humans ... that's probably why Michel Bassompierre's animals are so peaceful and often joyful. In this universe, without blandness or softness, the man eclipses himself, sensitive and humble, to leave room for the animal and its elegance. If the harmony of Michel's studio radiated to the forests of Africa, what a relief it would be to see the same calmness in the eyes of the great apes...»



JACQUES WEBER, EXHIBITION GODFATHER

Passionate about the dramatic arts since childhood, Jacques Weber entered the Conservatoire National Supérieur at the age of 20 and won the Prix d'Excellence at the exit competition. He refused to be hired at the Comédie-Française to join Robert Hossein in Reims.

Jacques Weber then began a rich theatrical career and sporadic film activity. In 1983, his performance in **Cyrano** directed by Jérôme Savary was a real success. In 1986, he became director of the Nice theatre. In the cinema, he made a name for himself playing the Count de Guiche in **Cyrano de Bergerac** (1989), for which he won the César for Best Supporting Actor in 1991. In 1997, he began directing with Don Juan. He then revived the theatre genre on television with Ruy Blas in 2002. In 2007, he starred alongside Karin Viard and Pierre Arditi in Les Ambitieux, then in the comedy Odette Toulemonde with Catherine Frot and Albert Dupontel. A true constant in his career, **Jacques Weber devotes himself mainly to the theatre, remaining faithful to the great classics while dusting them off.**

« Wonder is also a gentle, tender, human and rebellious way of crying out to the world that something is not right. I think that when we marvel at works that seem disproportionate, but which are not in terms of the subject matter, it is an active gesture, it is a gesture of rebellion, it is also a popular gesture. What I find magnificent about these sculptures is that they belong to the city. »





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COMITÉ HAUSSMANN PARIS



Comité Haussmann Paris is the association that brings together the main retailers located near the famous Parisian boulevard.

The partners in the Comité Haussmann Paris have decided to go beyond their own identities by contributing a common vision of the district and working together for its development. The members of the association have thus defined three priority fields of action: the enhancement and modernisation of the heritage; the creative and cultural dynamism; and the development of the commercial attractiveness.

Comité Haussmann Paris is working to consolidate the attractiveness of the district in order to make it an essential place to live in the capital and a showcase for a certain French art de vivre.



IMPROVE

the daily life of the neighbourhood

The fields of action are multiple and complementary in order to revitalise the daily life of the district. The energy of the Haussmann Paris Committee is primarily directed towards artistic and commercial initiatives, the greening of the streets, cleanliness and safety.



SPEAK

with one voice to our partners and visitors

By organising working groups devoted to the immediate future of the district or by representing its interests to the public authorities, the Haussmann Paris Committee brings together all the voices of the district into one to help new paths emerge.



ANIMATE

the neighbourhood all year round

Through the continuous programming of events related to current events in the district, the Haussmann Paris Committee hopes to connect with its visitors in a pure way: with the heart.

GALERIES BARTOUX

A FAMILY ADVENTURE

Galleries Bartoux is an international group with 20 galleries located in France, Monaco, London, New York and Miami representing a new generation of artists.

For 30 years, the Bartoux family's artistic approach has been to interact with the public by making them aware of art while opening a window on new and exciting cultural values. The Bartoux Galleries are open spaces. They are places for exchange and meeting between enthusiasts from often different backgrounds.

The group offers an artistic selection that includes works by great masters, established artists and emerging artists. It is this alchemy that creates the DNA of the Galleries Bartoux group.

With an unconditional love of the women and men of art, and an in-depth knowledge of the artistic professions, Galleries Bartoux helps to push back prejudices and to erase differences.

GALERIES BARTOUX IN PARIS

Galleries Bartoux established itself in Paris almost 20 years ago. In 2018, the group inaugurated a 500m² gallery in the heart of Avenue Matignon, known worldwide as the epicentre of Parisian art galleries.

All of Michel Bassompierre's monumental sculptures are available for sale. For all information requests, collectors can contact the Galerie Bartoux Paris: paris@galleries-bartoux.com // 01 42 66 36 63



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