

Comité Haussmann Paris and the Galeries Bartoux join forces to present "FRAGILES COLOSSES",
an open-air exhibition of 10 monumental works by animal sculptor Michel Bassompierre

Taking place from 1 February to 31 March 2023, this exhibition aims to raise awareness of the fragility of the living world through beauty.

Paris, 9th January 2023

From 1 February to 31 March 2023, the Haussmann Paris Committee, which brings together the main brands and cultural institutions in the Haussmann district, in association with Galeries Bartoux, a French group of family owned art galleries that has distinguished itself for 30 years by its selection of heterogeneous talents from all over the world, is offering "FRAGILES COLOSSES", an open-air exhibition in the heart of the Haussmann district of 10 monumental works by the animal sculptor Michel Bassompierre.

Faithful to its desire to make the Haussmann district an essential part of life 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 to take a break and discover. It is therefore only natural that the Committee should join forces with the Galeries Bartoux for its next event, whose artistic approach is to interact with the public by making them aware of contemporary art.

ART TO RECONNECT TO THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

In this exhibition sponsored by the primatologist Sabrina Krief and the actor and director Jacques Weber, Michel Bassompierre's monumental bear and gorilla sculptures are emblematic representatives of endangered species. The many threats they face reveal their extreme fragility. Their habitats, forests and ice floes, are under pressure from 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. At the inauguration on Wednesday 1 February, Michel Bassompierre will unveil "LE MÉLÈZE", a 4-metre high erect bear: his largest sculpture to date.

MICHEL BASSOMPIERRE, SCULPTOR OF ANIMAL SOFTNESS

Master in the art of representing animals, Michel Bassompierre is the most talented contemporary animal sculptor. The artist transcends bronze and marble to create his bears and gorillas, all in curves and round, organic lines. With a perfectly mastered anatomy and drawing, his work shows an animality that is no longer hostile but peaceful and benevolent. He gets rid of the anecdotal to go to the essential: a pure form, delicate curves, an enveloping light which underlines the roundness of the masses from which emanate tenderness and poetry. Galeries Bartoux are honoured to work with him and immediately proposed to the Comité Haussmann Paris to exhibit his creations, whose message, resolutely contemporary, will be carried with strength and grandeur to the centre of Paris.



« I am one of those nature lovers who are in awe of life. Perhaps our duty is to share our sense of beauty so that others can admire these marvels which they pass by without realising it. Exhibiting my 'Fragile Colossi' in the Haussmann district, one of the most beautiful in the capital, will, I hope, make as many people as possible aware of the need to respect and preserve our environment.. » - Michel Bassompierre

« For 30 years, we have had the pleasure of promoting Art to the greatest number of people through our selection of talents and artistic events conveying authentic messages. In the heart of one of the most prestigious districts of Paris, Michel Bassompierre's monumental sculptures will raise awareness this winter of the threatened beauty of nature. We are pleased to be associated with the Comité Haussmann, whose values we share, for this exceptional exhibition that will awaken and marvel at the consciousness of all.. » - Les Galeries Bartoux

On the occasion of this announcement, **Alexandre Liot, President of the Comité Haussmann Paris** said « The Haussmann Paris Committee's vocation is to make its district a centre of attraction and a leading place to live in the capital, which has become a reference in France and internationally. Every day, we are committed to offering our visitors a different experience of Paris through artistic events in the urban space, accessible to all, like this exhibition. We are very happy to be associated for the first time with the Bartoux galleries to offer our visitors an "out of the ordinary" exhibition and to create a unique journey through the heart of our emblematic district of the capital.. »





[MICHEL BASSOMPIERRE](#)



[PREVIOUS MONUMENTAL EXHIBITIONS](#)

PRESS CONTACTS

Karène Bassompierre - contact@bassompierre.fr

Laura Bartoux - Directrice Communication & Marketing - laura.bartoux@galeries-bartoux.com

Clémence Langlois - Social Media Manager & PR- media@galeries-bartoux.com

About Haussmann Paris: Haussmann Paris is an association under the French law of 1901 that brings together 15 major retailers in the Haussmann district under a common banner: Adidas, BNP Paribas Real Estate, C&A, Citadium, Etam, Galeries Lafayette, H&M, Indigo, Opéra de Paris, Passage du Havre, Printemps, Sephora, Théâtre Mogador, Uniqlo and Zara. In a spirit of active cooperation, these committed and sometimes competing players have decided to go beyond their own identity to participate in the new dynamic of the Haussmann district, making it a centre of attraction and a leading place to live, in Paris, in France and in the world. Haussmann Paris is working to achieve three main objectives: to enhance and modernise the district's heritage; to boost its creative and cultural dynamism; and to develop the commercial appeal of the area..



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