

**STUDIO
NAEGELI**

GALERIE MITTERRAND



LES LALANNE

Claude and François–Xavier Lalanne

July 22 - September 15, 2024

STUDIO NAEGELI

Promenade 61
3780 Gstaad
Switzerland

GALLERY ARCHIVE RESIDENCY

info@studionaegeli.com
studionaegeli.com
instagram.com/studionaegeli

Studio Naegeli is pleased to welcome Galerie Mitterrand from Paris as our guest in Gstaad. In collaboration with Galerie Mitterrand, we are presenting an exhibition dedicated to the artist couple Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne. Several major works from Lalanne's bestiary will be presented including the Paire de Singes Alternatifs (2013), the Grande Grue lumineuse (2008), the Miroir Hortensia (2009) and an exceptional Choupatte from 1967.

Among this selection stands out the Oiseau de jardin à bascule. A masterpiece by François-Xavier Lalanne created in 1974, this work ingeniously metamorphoses the shape of a sparrow into a rocking chair, the rocking movement itself becoming a metaphor for the hopping of a pecking bird. Unlike his later works in bronze, this sculpture is made from steel and copper plates cut and welded by the artist. The combination of these two materials, in shades of brown and silver, is naturally reminiscent of the bird's plumage. Acquired in 1974 by a Belgian collector, this work was first exhibited in the exhibition "Les Lalanne & Domesticated Beasts & Other Creatures" at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London. In 2010, it also featured in the Lalanne retrospective at the Musée des Art Décoratifs in Paris.

Claude Lalanne's furniture will also be highlighted in this exhibition. The Bureau Crocodile ('Crocodile Desk') (2007-2015), originally designed for fashion designer Tom Ford's office in New York, is one of the finest examples of the artist's surrealist creativity and daring. For several decades, Claude Lalanne's work has been a testimony to her affection for organic forms, the use of imprints and the technique of galvanoplasty. She directly incorporated the animal's unique form into her bronze work by molding real crocodile skins. A pair of Fauteuils Crocodile and a small Guéridon Osiris will complete the ensemble on show in Gstaad.

Claude (born in Paris in 1925 and died in 2019) and François-Xavier Lalanne (born in Agen in 1927 and died in 2008) began working together in 1956. Claude studied architecture at the École des Beaux-Arts and the École des Arts Décoratifs. Her works are produced using techniques associated with impression, molding and electroplating; she is the genius behind some of the most intimate pieces, as well as some of the most baroque.

François-Xavier studied painting at the Académie Julian and had his first painting exhibition at the Galerie Cimaïse in Paris in 1952, four years before he began working on sculpture with Claude. Beneath hieratic attitudes their works unveil a mischievous bestiary, the forms of the sculptures following the footsteps of those of Ancient Egypt, Pompon and Brancusi, who was their studio neighbor in Montparnasse.

The Lalanne have always shared the feeling that sculpture, and more broadly a work of art, can have a function. Their entire career has been shaped by the desire to restore to sculpture a familiar dimension, a possible use. Nature, and more particularly the animal world, offers them an infinite number of forms recognizable to all, a repertoire that they subjected to the constraints of decorative art with great humor.

Their work, resolutely unclassifiable, holds a special place in the history of art. Highly prized by collectors, institutions and the general public alike, their work can now be found in some of the world's most prestigious public and private collections.

For questions please get in touch with Anna Högl

+41 76 472 50 60
info@studionaegeli.com

Opening hours

June 23 - July 7: Thu - Sun @ 1 - 6pm
July 8 - 21: Mo - Sun @ 11am - 6pm
July 22 - August 18: Thu - Sun @ 1 - 6pm
August 19 - 25: Mo - Sun @ 11am - 6pm
August 26 - September 15: Thu - Sun @ 1 - 6pm

.. and anytime by appointment