Demisch Danant is pleased to present René Jean Caillette, a solo exhibition devoted to significant works of the 1950s and 1960s by the acclaimed French designer. On view from September 18 to October 30, René Jean Caillette presents the designer’s work in three distinct vignettes. The highlight of the exhibition is a re-creation of a dining room from the designer’s historic 1961 presentation at the Salon des Arts Ménagers, including the Sylvie Credenza and Dining Table and the rare and iconic Diamond Chairs in white lacquer. Two vignettes focus on works designed in the late 1950s for the manufacturers Charron, Steiner, and S.A.D.E.A.. The exhibition also features a rare prototype for a bookcase and a unique sofa, both in molded plywood, acquired directly from the designer’s estate.

René Jean Caillette (1919-2004) was part of a group of young designers who emerged immediately following the reconstruction period, dedicated to designing elegant and accessible furniture in a resolutely modern spirit, stripped of decoration and produced in series. In 1950, George Charron, a French furniture manufacturer, discovered Caillette’s work and their meeting led to the creation of Group 4, a collaboration between Caillette, Alain Richard, Genevieve Dangles and Joseph André Motte. Caillette received the René
Gabriel prize in 1952 and the silver medal at the Milan Triennale in 1962, and continued to design for Charron until 1972. Throughout his illustrious career, Caillette adhered to a rigorous development and prototyping process and remained committed to simplicity of line and material innovation.

Demisch Danant Gallery

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Opening hours

Monday - Friday from 10am to 6pm
Saturday from 12pm to 6pm

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1. Rene Jean Caillette, Sylvie Dining Table, with drawers on ends, 1961, Pallisander, steel, acajou, 28.74 H x 72.83 x 37.4 inches, 73 H x 185 x 95 cm. With extensions: 28.74 H x 122.25 x 37.5 inches. Image courtesy of Demisch Danant. Photo by Thierry Depagne.

2. Archival image: Presentation at the Salon des arts Ménagers, 1961


4. Rene Jean Caillette, Set of 6 Diamond Chairs, 1958, White lacquered molded plywood, black painted metal legs, 31.5 x 18 x 18 inches, 80 x 45.7 x 45.7 cm. Edition Steiner. Image courtesy of Demisch Danant. Photo by Thierry Depagne.

5. Rene Jean Caillette, Modular Bookcase Prototype, 1970, White lacquered wood, painted polyurethane, plexiglass, 64.9 H x 61.4 x 15.1 inches, 165 H x 156 x 38.5 cm. Prototype for Charron. Provenance: From the estate of René Jean Caillette. Image courtesy of Demisch Danant. Photo by Thierry Depagne.

6. Rene Jean Caillette, Set of 6 Diamond Chairs, 1958, White lacquered molded plywood, black painted metal legs, 31.5 x 18 x 18 inches, 80 x 45.7 x 45.7 cm. Edition Steiner. Image courtesy of Demisch Danant. Photo by Thierry Depagne.
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