

DEMISCH DANANT

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First U.S. Exhibition For Joseph André Motte, Visionary French Designer, Opens At Demisch Danant Gallery In New York City

Joseph André Motte: The Art of Living

November 8, 2012 – February 9, 2013
Demisch Danant Gallery
542 West 22nd Street
New York City



Tripod Chair, 1949

New York, NY... Demisch Danant is pleased to present **Joseph André Motte: The Art of Living**, the first American exhibition devoted exclusively to the work of one of the most influential and innovative figures of post-war French design. Featuring rare examples presented in historical living environments, the exhibition encompasses thirty unique pieces— many of which have never before been shown publicly— bringing to light the remarkable works of an oft-overlooked Modernist.

Born in France in 1925, Motte was part of a younger generation of post-war designers dedicated to an optimistic vision of industrialization and modern design's ability to improve the lives of the masses. Following the reconstruction period, this group of designers embraced mass production as well as newer, affordable industrial materials as a means of realizing radically inventive forms.

A stolid devotion to contemporary forms, expressed using both traditional and newly invented industrial materials, established Joseph André Motte as one of the most visionary figures of his generation. **Joseph André Motte: The Art of Living** highlights the diverse breadth of materials that characterize Motte's oeuvre and presents many of his most significant innovations in modern style. Featuring rare examples of Motte's early work in rattan of 1954 to his transition to production furniture with Charron in 1958-60, the show is divided into two spaces that each focus on a distinctive period of this illustrious designer's oeuvre.

Based on a 1954 Charron presentation, the first space will focus on Motte's early work in plywood and rattan, and will feature a pair of the iconic 1949 *Tripod Chairs* and the 1954 rattan *Sabre Chair*, placed within a living room interior. These iconic designs exemplify Motte's distinctive use of traditional techniques used to craft innovative modernist forms.



A presentation for Charron at Le Salon des Arts-Ménager, 1954

Motte's designs for mass production and his experimentation with new affordable materials such as plastic, foam, and Formica will be represented in the second space, which will focus on Motte's designs of the 1960s. This environment presents a 1960s chambre and includes a rare vinyl bed, the 1959 *Light Table* and a pair of nightstands made in luminous white opaline glass.



A presentation for Charron at Le Salon des Arts-Ménagers, 1960

About the Designer



J. A. Motte was a member of the young generation of French designers that emerged immediately following World War II and included Pierre Guariche, Michel Mortier, René Jean Caillette, Alain Richard, Pierre Paulin, Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq, among others. Having trained in Marcel Gascoin's workshop, Motte soon rose to the top of this new "school" of French design whose mission was to refurnish French homes in a resolutely contemporary style. His prolific work used all the new materials that industry made available, and he was a pioneer in many areas. His brilliant career was marked by prestigious commissions (including the Orly and Roissy airports, the Musée du Louvre, and the Préfecture du Val d'Oise), and recognition with the most distinguished honors of his era.

Exhibition Information

Joseph André Motte: The Art of Living will be on view November 8, 2012 – February 9, 2013 and is curated by gallery owners Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant. This is the first American exhibition to focus exclusively on Joseph André Motte and the extraordinary diversity of his work.

About Demisch Danant

Founded in 2005 by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant, Demisch Danant specializes in twentieth-century European design with an emphasis on the late 1950s through the 1980s. The gallery features the work of Maria Pergay, Pierre Paulin, Joseph André Motte, Pierre Guariche, Philippon & Lecoq, Rene Jean Caillette and Pentagon Group. The gallery also engages in a series of exhibitions concerning the intersection among architecture, design and art, including the work of Felice Varini and Krijn de Koning.

Demisch Danant is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10AM to 5:30PM, and on Saturday from 12PM to 6PM. Additional information about the gallery and its programs is available online at www.demischdanant.com

For additional press information or to request photographs for publication, please contact info@andreaschwan.com.