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WITH A LANDMARK CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ, AND A MAJOR PARIS EXHIBITION, MARIA PERGAY TO CELEBRATE HALF A CENTURY IN DESIGN

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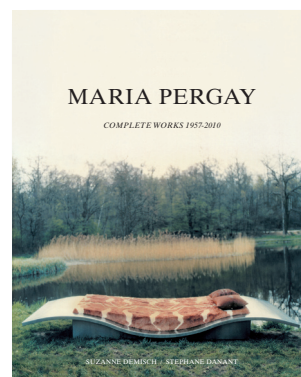
MARIA PERGAY:
PLACE DES VOSGES
Exhibition, Paris
March 2012

MARIA PERGAY:
COMPLETE WORKS 1957-2011
Catalogue Raisonné
by Suzanne Demisch, Stephane Danant
November 2011

New York, NY...Born to Russian parents in Romania in 1930, Maria Pergay emigrated to France with her family at the age of 7, settled in Paris, and over ensuing decades evolved into one of the most inventive and celebrated designers of the day. At 81 years old, Pergay is still at the height of her powers and is creating extraordinary objects and major commissions across Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. To celebrate her long career and many contributions to the fields of decorative arts and design, Pergay's 55th year of work will be marked with a series of milestone events in Paris and New York from late Fall 2011 through Spring 2012.

Among these events will be the November international release of Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010, the first comprehensive catalogue raisonné of the designer's work; an extraordinary exhibition in Paris in late March 2012, when Pergay will install an array of works and site specific tableaux in a grand mansion in the Place des Vosges, the site of her first shop in the 1960s; and the Spring 2012 acquisition of her work by The

Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for its permanent collection. Additionally, Maria Pergay will be formally inducted into the famed National Ordre de la Légion d'honneur (Legion of Honor) in recognition of extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to French decorative arts. Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Order is the highest commendation of merit in France.



Detail, Private Commission, 2009





Although beginning in silver, Pergay is most renowned for her use of stainless steel, which she first explored in 1968 with the now-iconic Flying Carpet Daybed and the Ring Chair. That same year, her first full group of stainless steel furniture was exhibited at Galerie Maison Jardin and achieved instant acclaim. Always pursuing an original design canon, Pergay concurrently worked on commissioned and custom pieces for many noted figures, from fashion legend Pierre Cardin to the Saudi Royal family. In the late 1980s and through the 1990s, she produced several important commissions in Russia and continued to develop her pathbreaking work in stainless steel, combining it to striking effect with mother of pearl, lacquer, and precious woods. A full-scale exhibition in New York in 2006 firmly established Maria Pergay's presence in the United States, where her unique point of view and extensive history had

been previously under-recognized. The book *Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010* is the first authoritative survey of the designer's work. Edited by connoisseur historians Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant of Demisch Danant, published by Grafiche Damiani of Italy, and distributed by DAP Inc, this 325-page volume traces the innovations and output of Pergay across time, geography, and materials. Compiled in collaboration with the designer, *Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010* presents detailed descriptions of more than 300 Pergay creations, accompanied by both vintage and contemporary photographs, many of which have never previously been reproduced. The book has been designed by Doug Lloyd, principal, Lloyd & Co., New York and includes texts by Suzanne Demisch, Stephane Danant, and Adam Lindemann, author, journalist, and noted collector.



Mother of Pearl Cabinet, 2005. Home of a private collector

Ring Chair, 1968



Table Ammonite, 1977, for Pierre Cardin



In March 2012, Pergay will unveil the exhibition Maria Pergay: Place des Vosges in a grand mansion on the Place des Vosges in Paris. This quintessentially Parisian location holds special significance for Pergay, who opened her first public emporium there more than fifty years ago. Curated by Pergay herself and jointly organized by Demisch Danant, New York and JGM Gallery, Paris, the retrospective will bring together exceptional examples of furniture, lighting, and decorative objects created by the designer between the 1950s and the present day, featuring an extraordinary new design created expressly for the exhibition incorporating a 17th century slice of wood from Marie Antoinette's famed gardens at Versailles. Archival pieces on loan from major public and private collections will be presented, along with personal ephemera and photographs from the designer. The exhibition will also feature the first viewing of a documentary film on Maria Pergay by the well known photographers Jenny Gage and Tom Betterton.



Townhouse, Place des Vosges, Site of Pergay exhibition



Belt Tray, 1957

Drape Cabinets, 2005



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