

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

Press Release

Converging Horizons

19 October–6 November 2021

Clavé Fine Art, 10 bis rue Roger, 75014 Paris



Waddington Custot is pleased to announce *Converging Horizons*, an exhibition in Paris hosted by Clavé Fine Art, recently redesigned as an exhibition space by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. *Converging Horizons* is presented during FIAC 2021 as an off-site exhibition.

Converging Horizons focuses on sculpture, painting and textile art by three celebrated artists who have broken new ground and established new modes of thinking and of expression: Etel Adnan, Sheila Hicks and Sophia Vari. Curators Laurence Custot and Isaure Bouriez selected these three artists as important innovators. During these months of restricted freedom and psychic tension, these artists continue to find creative ways to make work which helps us as viewers to discover, dream and travel through beauty and explore some answers to the human quest of meaning.

Adnan, Hicks and Vari, three artists of the same generation, reached artistic maturity around the same time. Each has travelled the world extensively and has drawn special influence from those travels to develop their own unique language of abstraction, with radically different results in a range of media. Between them, these three artists have spent decades crossing the globe, and yet all three have returned to keep a studio in the French capital, Paris. The site of the exhibition on rue Roger, is itself rich with history, originally serving at the studio of celebrated artist César.

Co-curator of the exhibition, Laurence Custot, said:

“The world is changing fast, and the current global context highlights this shift in a brutal way; every one of us has been forced toward a new vision of how things will be, and we have been made to think outside of our normal parameters. Artists are by essence pathfinders, and now more than ever, we can learn from their resilience and innovation. All of the artists shown here are inspirational for their endless innovation.”

Co-curator Isaure Bouriez said:

“Etel Adnan, Sheila Hicks and Sophia Vari, while they have travelled widely throughout their lives, all share a special attachment with the city of Paris. To host this exhibition in a space which was once itself an artist studio is very fitting and highlights the importance of this city to artists past and present.”

Three pioneers

Born in Beirut in 1925, Etel Adnan, who is now well into her nineties, continues to work in Paris. Her diverse practice takes in poetry, tapestry, ceramic, painting and Leporello: printed material then folded into a pleated accordion. Renowned for her vibrantly coloured, abstracted renditions of mountains, ocean, and sky, Adnan uses writing and art to access her personal experience with war, loss and displacement, finding remedy in the natural beauty of landscape and the spirituality of weaving.

The American born artist Sheila Hicks (b.1934, Nebraska, USA) also lives and works in Paris. Best known for her experimental weavings and monumental textile environments, often illustrating personal narratives in vibrant hues, she began working with textiles in the 1950s and, initially encouraged by Anni Albers has since travelled widely around South America, Mexico, Morocco and India to study different traditions and techniques of weaving. Her gestural approach to working with thread challenged notions of weaving in the 1960s, redefining its boundaries within the realm of contemporary art.

Born in Greece in 1940 from a Greek father and Hungarian mother, Sophia Vari travels extensively and today continues to work between Monaco, Paris, Pietrasanta and Greece. Her abstract sculptures, bas-reliefs and collages on paper, which bring together geometric lines with and sensuous curves in unique configurations, speak of sensuality, dynamism, femininity and beauty. After studying at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, a turning point in Vari's career came with a trip to Egypt in 1978, which focussed her practice to work in marble and bronze, most often working within a minimal colour palette of black and white.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image captions (L-R)

Etel Adnan, *Untitled*, 2017, oil on canvas, 64 x 50 cm. Courtesy the artist and Waddington Custot
Sheila Hicks, *Harem*, 1986, wool, in artist's frame, 23.2 x 12.7 cm. Courtesy the artist and Waddington Custot.
Sophia Vari, *Forces Contraire*, 1993, marble, 50 x 38 x 41.5 cm. Courtesy the artist and Waddington Custot

Opening hours

19–24 October, 12pm-7pm
25 October – 6 November, by appointment

About Waddington Custot

Waddington Custot was formed through the partnership of French art dealer Stephane Custot and long-time London art dealer Leslie Waddington, in 2010. Located in Cork Street since 1958, formerly as Waddington Galleries, the gallery has a rich heritage and an international reputation for quality and expertise in works by modern and contemporary masters, with a particular focus on monumental sculpture.

The gallery has cemented its reputation over several decades for high quality and well-researched exhibitions of significant artists operating in the mid-twentieth century and beyond. Today, Waddington Custot represents heavyweight contemporary and modern artists and their estates including Peter Blake, David Annesley, Patrick Caulfield, Ian Davenport, Fabienne Verdier, Barry Flanagan, Allan D'Arcangelo, Jedd Novatt, Pablo Reinoso and Robert Indiana. The inventory includes works by important modern European artists including Jean Dubuffet, Pierre Soulages, Joan Miró, Josef Albers, Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, Fausto Melotti, and Antoni Tàpies.

For further information in English

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