

THE
COLLECTORS
LIST

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Opening John Royère @ Galerie Patrick Seguin London

By Staff Writer



JEAN ROYÈRE, ÉLÉPHANTEAU ARMCHAIR, 1948, OAK AND VELVET, 108 x 85 x 87 cm, 42.52 x 33.46 x 34.25 in. JEAN ROYÈRE

GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN LONDON

February 25 - April 23, 2016

London - from February 25th to April 26th, 2016 Galerie Patrick Seguin is pleased to present at its Brook Street location a show entirely dedicated to Jean Royère.

Jean Royère was one of the leading figures in French design from his very first project—garden furniture—in 1931 until his definitive retirement in 1972. Those four decades saw the worldwide shift towards the modern; and Royère, bestriding two epochs — from the prewar years to the economic boom and prosperity of postwar reconstruction — traversed the aesthetic climate of his time as strikingly and dazzlingly as a comet.

Self-taught, he always remained a free agent. Quick, intuitive, intelligent and pragmatic, he was also remarkably inventive, as his work makes crystal clear: there is sheer jubilation in the way he mapped out his own world — a childlike taste for freedom, a nonchalance and an irreverence that meant he never lapsed into the bourgeois «good taste» that trapped so many of his contemporaries. At the root of all this was the meticulous, nothing-but-the-best know-how he had picked up in the cabinet-making workshops of the Faubourg Saint-Antoine; and with Gouffé, the design and decoration firm in the same neighborhood, where they made copies of old pieces and French period furniture in particular.

Royère came up with a style that was his and nobody else's. A style his period adopted naturally and spontaneously, falling under the spell of his smooth, organic shapes, his supple, pared-down, graphic line, his unconventional color associations. Like a couturier, Royère dressed his time, inventing the decor for a modern lifestyle to be effortlessly, harmoniously lived in an elegant, gracious and somewhat zany setting.

Jean Royère (1902-1981)

In 1931, Jean Royère is 29 years old and relinquishes a safe position in an import-export company to become a decorator. From 1931 through 1933 he engrosses himself in the guild-like Faubourg Saint-Antoine neighborhood to assimilate the rudiments of the trade. He works as an apprentice in a furniture workshop to learn the different stages of production, fabrication, and commercialization. In 1933, Royère's career as a decorator starts with the lay-out of the café-restaurant "Le Carlton" on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. This project meets immediate success, and Royère becomes one of the regular participants of the great Parisian design shows of the time, such as the Salon d'Automne (Autumn Salon) or the Salon des Artistes Décorateurs (Artistic Decorators' Salon). Royère's innovative and fresh liberal style differs from the conventionalism of his colleagues and their "dictums". Royère shows a masterful control of the interior spaces he designs, as if he had a natural sense of decoration, where comfort does not exclude the richness of the material and where a fanciful wistfulness is expressed through innovative shapes and vivid colors. Even before World War II, Royère seizes the sinuous forms that will prefigure the "free-form shapes", characteristic of the 1950's. Despite the fact that he is based in Paris, where the majority of his projects are realized, Royère has many international clients and opens several agencies in the Near East and in South America. King Farouk of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan and the Shah of Iran, clients who commission Royère with important projects. In 1972, Royère retires from the profession, and spends his time between France and the US. In 1980, he leaves France permanently for the States, where he passes away on May 14th, 1981, in Pennsylvania. The originality of his style, his inherent refinement, and the poetry of his touch establish Jean Royère among the pantheon of great decorators of the 20th Century.

Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris & London

Founded in 1989, Galerie Patrick Seguin is located in Paris's Bastille district in a 300 sqm (3200 sq ft) space, renovated by Jean Nouvel, a 2008 Pritzker Prize winner. The gallery has brought the talents of French designers such as Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Pierre Jeanneret, Le Corbusier and Jean Royère into the international spotlight.

The quality of the works selected by Patrick Seguin combined with his meticulous and informative presentations has resulted in unique exhibitions at the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Venice Biennale, and the Musée des Beaux Arts in Nancy, France. In 2008, Galerie Patrick Seguin and Galerie Jacques Lacoste presented an important show on Jean Royère's work at the Sonnabend Gallery in New York.

The gallery has also published a series of monographic books that accompany the exhibitions; the publication on Jean Royère was published in 2012 in collaboration with Galerie Jacques Lacoste.

In October 2015, Galerie Patrick Seguin opened a second space in Mayfair, London. Following the inaugural show *Petites Machines d'Architecture* dedicated to Jean Prouvé's demountable architecture, the gallery continues to uphold its mission with an exhibition devoted to the work of designer Jean Royère.



JEAN ROYÈRE, PERSAN 8-BRANCHED WALL LAMP, CA. 1950, GILTED IRON, 91 x 60 x 28 cm, 35.83 x 23.62 x 11.02 in.