



Menart Fair takes over the Palais d'Iéna!

Modern & contemporary Art + Design fair, dedicated to the MENA art scene



An ambitious new edition taking place during the European Heritage Days!
15-17 September 2023

For its 4th edition, Menart Fair will be held at the Palais d'Iéna, a 20th century historical monument and the headquarters of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (EESC), from 15 to 17 September. This date is all the more significant as the 3rd assembly of the Republic will be open to the public, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days - a key cultural event of autumn.

A masterpiece of Auguste Perret, the Palais d'Iéna is home to numerous artistic creations: mosaics and sculptures by Martial Rayssé, tapestries by Aubusson and the Gobelins, frescoes by Jean Souverbie. Antique in its own way, in a modern context, this palace is an **ode to light** and one of the most beautiful Parisian settings for revealing the art of these **sunny regions**, which are the Middle East and North Africa.



The hypostyle room flooded with light thanks to its numerous and very large bay windows.
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A solar setting, the double-revolution staircase rises in the bath of light formed by the emblematic screen walls.
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All the ingredients are there for **magic to happen**, for encounters, and for love at first sight to occur. Menart Fair will add its choice of **referent galleries**, its **rigorous selection of strong works**, its humanity, its colours, its poetry, its spices, its perfumes and smells so that a unique moment comes to life: a journey into this **luminous and bewitching Orient!**

Located a few steps from the **Palais de Tokyo**, the **Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris**, the **Musée de l'Homme**, the **Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine**, the **Palais Galliera**, opposite the **Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet**, Menart Fair will dazzle visitors with the latest creations from MENA. Around **30 ART + DESIGN galleries** are participating in the event. The fair will also host monumental sculptures and art installations, in partnership with foundations and institutions. 

« We are very happy to position Menart Fair in Paris within the framework of the Palais d'Iéna. Thanks to the monumentality of its space, we will develop our artistic proposals in the large hypostyle hall, in dialogue with the architecture of Auguste Perret, from which our scenography is inspired.

The fair is growing, both in terms of its artistic content and its international scope. Our work over the years in the Levant and now in Europe is bearing fruit: the arts of the MENA region have emerged, as witnessed by the new influx of collectors and institutions, their passionate interest, their in-depth knowledge and the space they now occupy in the media.

The fair is resolutely committed to being a true artistic incubator, with an outstanding selection, clearly placed under the sign of the discovery of rising talents in modern & contemporary art + design, from the Middle East and North Africa. The multiplication of our mediators demonstrates our desire to accompany and narrate, in a didactic as well as initiatory spirit », says **Laure d'Hauteville**, founder and director.



Joanna Chevalier & Laure d'Hauteville

« The MENA region is of increasing interest to collectors and institutions. We were very pleased with the success of our last edition, at the Boghossian Foundation-Villa Empain in Brussels, where collectors and institutions flocked. The MENA is nourished by its great cultural diversity and the Arab-Persian world is in full artistic expansion. The development of institutions is quite exceptional: museums, biennials, residencies, incubators! There are many artists and designers not represented on the European scene to be discovered », concludes **Joanna Chevalier**, artistic director.

THE ESEC, A HIGH PLACE FOR THE ARTS

The Economic, Social and Environmental Council, France's third constitutional assembly, underlines, both through its work and through the exhibitions it hosts, the extent to which culture must occupy a privileged place in public debate and continue to enrich the much-needed dialogue between citizens within the civil society. Each year, the Council hosts major artistic events at the Palais d'Iéna during the contemporary art week, and **next September it will host Menart Fair!**

Art is at home at the Palais d'Iéna. To give just a few examples: in 2017 **Francesco Vezzoli** created an "imaginary museum" lit by pink neon lights, in which he exhibits classical sculptures revisited with the help of **Rem Koolhaas** and the **Prada Foundation**. In the same year, a new work by **Antony Gormley**, based on the human figure, was exhibited at the Nuit Blanche, in collaboration with the **Thaddaeus Ropac gallery**.

Carlos Cruz-Diez had a solo exhibition there in 2016, in collaboration with **Caroline Smulders** and the **Galerie Mitterrand**, curated by **Matthieu Poirier**. In partnership with the **FIAC** in 2018 and in collaboration with the **Galerie Olivier Malingue**, the Palais d'Iéna was taken over by a series of mobile or kinetic sculptures by artists such as **Louise Bourgeois**, **Daniel Buren**, **Alexander Calder**, **Olafur Eliasson**, **Julio Le Parc**, **François Morellet**...

In 2019, a monumental work by the artist **Giuseppe Penone**, 43 metres long, was installed in the majestic perspective of the Hypostyle Hall, in collaboration with the **Marian Goodman Gallery**. In 2022, gigantic coloured velums by **Lucia Koch** were hung under the curatorship of **Matthieu Poirier**, on the occasion of **Paris + by Art Basel**.



De left to right : Lucia Koch, *Double Trouble*, 2022. Carlos Cruz-Diez, Curation Matthieu Poirier, 2016. Suspension, Cese Courtesy of Olivier Malingue Ltd., 2018. Photos © Benoit Fougeirol.

PALAIS D'IÉNA, A MODERN MONUMENT INSPIRED BY THE PANTHEON

The Palais d'Iéna was designed in 1939 by the French architect **Auguste Perret** (1874-1954), one of the first technicians specialising in reinforced concrete. His work reflects his desire to place modern construction within a new architectural order of reinforced concrete, defined as the School of Structural Classicism. He is also the architect behind Paris' **Théâtre des Champs-Élysées** (1913), the **Salle Cortot** (1928), the **Mobilier National** (1936), and many other major sites in France and abroad, notably in **Algeria**, **Egypt** and **Turkey**.

A true visionary, he reinvented classicism and his greatest achievement, from 1945 to 1964, was the reconstruction of the city centre of Le Havre (Seine-Maritime). He played a leading role in the reconstruction of destroyed cities.

Formerly and briefly a permanent museum of public works, the Palais d'Iéna is exceptionally airy and bright thanks to its very large windows and its emblematic clerestories: the hypostyle hall and the hemicycle are veritable temples of the sun. Today, the Palais d'Iéna is **one of the major exhibition venues in Paris**.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



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MENART FAIR

Art + Design from Middle-East & North Africa

Dates : Friday, September 15th, from noon to 10 PM
Saturday, September 16th, from noon to 8 PM
Sunday, September 17th, from noon to 7 PM

Lieu : Palais d'Iéna – Centre économique, social et environnemental (CESE)
9 place d'Iéna, 75016 Paris, France

Press preview : Thursday, September 14th, from 4 PM to 6 PM

VIP opening : Thursday, September 14th, from 6 PM to 10 PM



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