



FONDATION  
D'ENTREPRISE  
**HERMÈS**

Exhibition  
**Dominique Ghesquière**  
"L'avant monde"

March 28  
→ August 26, 2019

La Grande Place,  
Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis  
Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche

Curator  
CAC – La Synagogue  
de Delme



LA  
GRANDE  
PLACE  
MUSÉE DU CRISTAL



CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN  
LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME

**PRESS INFORMATION**

## EXHIBITION

**Dominique Ghesquière**

“L'avant monde”

(“Before-world”)

March 28 → August 26, 2019

Preview: Wednesday March 27, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

La Grande Place,  
Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis  
Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche

**The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès continues its programme of exhibitions at La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis in Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche (Moselle) with a solo presentation by artist Dominique Ghesquière. The show is part of the Foundation's worldwide programme of events at its contemporary art spaces in Brussels, Singapore, Seoul and Tokyo, and in association with leading French art institutions (“Simple Shapes” at the Centre Pompidou-Metz and “L'esprit du Bauhaus” at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris).**

The Foundation stages two exhibitions per year at La Grande Place, devoted to new work in contemporary art with a focus on artisan expertise. Each event is part of a themed series of three consecutive exhibitions devised in collaboration with cultural institutions from the Lorraine region, with the support of the Cristallerie Saint-Louis.

Following the first and second series, curated respectively by the Centre Pompidou-Metz and 49 Nord 6 Est – Frac Lorraine (the Lorraine regional fund for contemporary art, based in Metz), the Foundation has commissioned the Centre for Contemporary Art – La Synagogue de Delme, in the French department of Moselle, to curate the third series of exhibitions.

Under the title “L'héritage des secrets” (“Legacy of secrets”), the Synagogue de Delme presents a series of three solo exhibitions engaging with the historical and architectural heritage of the Saint-Louis crystal foundry, and the workshop's human, aesthetic and technical history over four centuries. The invited artists – French duo Hippolyte Hentgen, Thu-Van Tran and Dominique Ghesquière – immerse themselves in this unique world and create works that resonate with it and diffract its meaning, like light through crystal.

Dominique Ghesquière takes us back to the origins of the raw materials of crystal. Extending the museum's visitor itinerary, with its displays of crystal objects, she presents ferns, forests, water and fire, as if sprung from the memory of the crystal itself, as reminders of their vital presence.

**Curated by:** CAC – La Synagogue de Delme

Cover photograph – Dominique Ghesquière, *Passage*, 2013, ferns.  
From the exhibition “Terre de profondeur” (“Deep earth”), CIAP Île de Vassivière, 2013.  
Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Aurélien Mole



# Press release

Dominique Ghesquière's work is born of encounters between contrasting elements, drawn from nature, domestic interiors or the street. Often taking the form of sculptures or environments, they transpose everyday reality into the exhibition space to create unexpected interactions and perceptions, and incongruous set pieces that invite viewers to revisit acquired assumptions and knowledge, and to question the essential nature of things. While not strictly trompe l'œil, Ghesquière's work occupies an ambivalent zone between truth and falsehood; and while the French situationist Guy Debord held that "in a world that has truly been turned on its head, truth itself is a culmination of falsehood", Dominique Ghesquière favours a poetic vision of reality, beyond such restrictive dualities.

For her exhibition at La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, Ghesquière takes us back to the origins of the raw materials of crystal itself, and their transformation in its production process. Leading on from the museum's visitor itinerary, with its displays of crystal objects, the artist reveals the presence of ferns (whose ashes are a key component of potash), forests, water and fire – as if sprung from the memory of the crystal itself, as reminders of their vital presence.

At La Grande Place, Ghesquière's raw materials do not occupy the same space as the visitor, the museum floor. Rather, like the crystal wares whose origins they symbolise, they are installed for viewing behind vitrines reminiscent of a vivarium. Eschewing her works' habitual more tactile, haptic appeal, this unprecedented arrangement invites us to shift our gaze serially from one sculpture to the next, the better to apprehend the natural forces that underpin each stage of the ongoing crystal-making process in the workshop adjoining the museum. Recalling the words of the 18th-century French chemist, philosopher and economist Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier, "nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed", and inspired directly by land art, Ghesquière's interventions both remind and reveal to us the true, material and territorial "nature" of crystal in a work of delicate archaeology, poetically ringed with light.



# About the exhibition series “L’héritage des secrets” (“Legacy of secrets”)

A series of three solo exhibitions devised by the Centre for Contemporary Art – La Synagogue de Delme, at La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis.

Imagine for a moment that the carafes, vases and *millefiori* paperweights that fill the shelves of La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal with their sparkling colours are the product of acts of magic, divination or witchcraft. Consider them as the archaeological remnants of past rituals whose origins and secrets we must discover: riddles to which the three exhibitions in this series offer their own, poetic answers while at the same time leading us to new mysteries of their own...

“L’héritage des secrets” (“Legacy of secrets”) is a series of three solo exhibitions that engage with the historical and architectural heritage of the Saint-Louis crystal foundry, and the workshop’s human, aesthetic and technical history over four hundred years. At the beating heart of the foundry, in the adjacent workshops, artisan skills are handed down from generation to generation in the form of gestures learned and acquired in a lengthy process of initiation.

The invited artists immerse themselves in this unique world and create works that resonate with it and diffract its meaning, like light through crystal.



# Guest artist at work



Dominique Ghesquière in her studio  
Courtesy of the artist

**Dominique Ghesquière** was born in 1953 in Pensacola, Florida (USA). She lives and works in Rueil-Malmaison (France).

Dominique Ghesquière is a graduate of the Beaux-Arts (ENSBA) in Lyon and has studied at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. Her work has been shown in solo exhibitions at Ponchettes /MAMAC hors les murs, Nice; Frac Île-de-France; Galerie Valentin, Paris; the CIAP, Vassivière; 3bisf, Aix-en-Provence; Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth; BF15, Lyon; Frac Bourgogne, and group exhibitions at the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rennes; Frac Auvergne; LAM, Lille; Casa del Lago, Mexico; IAC, Villeurbanne; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Frac Lorraine; Mudam, Luxembourg; Museum Ostwall, Dortmund and more.

She is represented by Galerie Valentin, in Paris.



# Press visuals

Hi-res visuals are available for download at:  
[www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/fr/espace-presse](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/fr/espace-presse)  
(password on request)

Views of the exhibition will be available after the preview.



Dominique Ghesquière, *Rideau d'arbres* ("Tree curtain"), 2016, sycamore wood, paint; and *Mémoire d'eau* ("Water memory"), 2016, pine needles. From the exhibition "Mémoire d'eau", Le Plateau – Frac Île-de-France (La Vitrine), 2016-2017. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Martin Argyroglo



Dominique Ghesquière, *Passage*, 2013, ferns. From the exhibition "Terre de profondeur" ("Deep earth"), CIAP Île de Vassivière, 2013. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Aurélien Mole



Dominique Ghesquière, *Forêt* ("Forest"), 2018, hazel branches; and *Oiseau* ("Bird"), 2014, stuffed starling. From the exhibition "Pierres des fées" ("Fairy stones"), Le Point Commun, Cran-Gevrier, 2018. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Passage*, 2013, ferns. From the exhibition "Terre de profondeur" ("Deep earth"), CIAP Île de Vassivière, 2013. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Aurélien Mole





Dominique Ghesquière, *Conférence des oiseaux* ("Conference of birds"), 2018, birch twigs; and *Feuilles* ("Leaves"), 2018, porcelain. From the exhibition "Pierres des fées" ("Fairy stones"), Le Point Commun, Cran-Gevrier, 2018. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Conférence des oiseaux* ("Conference of birds"), 2018, birch twigs. From the exhibition "Pierres des fées" ("Fairy stones"), Le Point Commun, Cran-Gevrier, 2018. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Vagues* ("Waves"), 2017, terracotta. Co-production and exhibition at Galerie des Ponchettes/MAMAC, Nice, 2017. Acquired by the CNAP 2018. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Rideau d'arbres* ("Tree curtain"), 2016, sycamore wood, paint; and *Herbes rares* ("Rare grasses"), 2017, pine needles. From an exhibition at Galerie des Ponchettes/MAMAC, Nice, 2017. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Feuilles* ("Leaves"), 2018, porcelain. From the exhibition "Pierres des fées" ("Fairy stones"), Le Point Commun, Cran-Gevrier, 2018. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



Dominique Ghesquière, *Mémoire d'eau* ("Water memory"), 2016, pine needles; and *Pierres roulées* ("Rolled stones"), 2014, pebbles, Collection Frac Aquitaine. From the exhibition "Les trois lointains" ("Three distant things"), Parc Culturel de Renilly, 2016. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Dominique Ghesquière



## The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports individuals and organisations seeking to learn, perfect, transmit and celebrate the creative skills that shape our lives today and into the future.

The Foundation operates nine major programmes with a shared focus on skills, creativity and transmission: **New Settings** and **Artists in the Community** for the performing arts, **Exhibitions** and **Artists' Residencies** for the visual arts, **Immersion, a French-American Photography Commission** for photography, **the Skills Academy** and **Manufacto, the Skills Factory** for the discovery and perfection of artisan trades. **H<sup>3</sup> – Heart, Head, Hand** is the Foundation's worldwide programme of support for organisations whose work reflects these central aims. Lastly, the Foundation's **Biodiversity** programme reflects its core commitment to protect our planet. Founded in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is directed by Catherine Tsekenis under the presidency of Olivier Fournier, who succeeded Pierre-Alexis Dumas in 2016.

The Foundation's diverse activities are governed by a single, over-arching belief: Our gestures define us. • [www.fondationentreprisehermes.org](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org)

## The Cristallerie Saint-Louis

Founded in 1586, the Müntzthal glassworks was appointed Royal glassmaker in 1767, by letters patent from the French King Louis XV. In 1781, the secret of crystal-making was discovered by expert artisans and chemists at Saint-Louis, since when the workshop has seen continuous production of its unique crystal creations, under the title Cristallerie Royale de Saint-Louis. The foundry joined the Hermès Group in 1989. Every day, the Saint-Louis workshop appends its signature to crystal objects — tableware, decorative objects, lights, household items — shaped by its master glass-makers and cutters, certified Meilleurs Ouvriers de France. Each is the custodian of an irreplaceable, ancestral tradition, enriched from generation to generation. The crystal is hand-blown, cut and decorated with 24-carat gold or platinum.

Each year, the Cristallerie Saint-Louis welcomes a guest artist-in-residence as part of the **Artists' Residencies** programme organised by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. Artists are given carte blanche to create new works, as part of the programme's remit to support the making of new works of art using fine raw materials in collaboration with workshop artisans. In 2018, the Cristallerie Saint-Louis hosted **Emmanuel Régent** as artist-in-residence.

## La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis

Designed by the architectural firm Lipsky+Rollet and located at the heart of the Cristallerie's main hall, La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis presents a permanent display of almost 2,000 pieces from the workshop's heritage collection. Following an initial, light-hearted introduction to the properties of crystal, twenty sections explore the historical and technical aspects of the iconic, centuries-old process practised at Saint-Louis. On the top floor, a window overlooks the crystal workshops, giving visitors an opportunity to observe the skill and dexterity of the glass-makers as they shape the hot, molten crystal.

| Open daily except Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Contact: [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com) • [www.lagrandeplace.fr](http://www.lagrandeplace.fr)





### → Guided tours at the Cristallerie Saint-Louis

Starting at the Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, in the company of an expert workshop guide, this detailed tour allows visitors to discover each of the skilled trades that have forged the Cristallerie Saint-Louis's international reputation: first, the master glass-workers who shape the objects from molten crystal, and second, the cutters, engravers and gold-leaf decorators. The tour includes a visit to the paperweight workshop as an introduction to these fascinating objects, much loved and passionately collected by the French author Colette. Next, the tour visits the contemporary collections, the embodiment of the creativity and innovation writing the future of crystal-making at Saint-Louis through the vision of in-house and external designers such as Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance (France). Last comes the chandelier workshop, in a blaze of light. The guided tour takes visitors to the heart of the working lives and skills of expert artisans, recognised as Meilleurs Ouvriers de France.

| Guided group visits by prior arrangement only: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – no tours from mid-July to mid-August, over the Christmas period or on public holidays.

Duration: 1h30 (English, French and German)

Bookings on 03 87 06 64 70 or [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com) • [www.lagrandeplace.fr](http://www.lagrandeplace.fr)

## The CAC – la Synagogue de Delme

Over twenty-five years and more than sixty exhibitions, the Centre for Contemporary Art – La Synagogue de Delme has established a strong identity as an experimental, exploratory workshop and venue. Artists are invited to develop specific artworks, many of which are produced in situ. This unusual space – a former synagogue in the Orientalist style, built in 1881 in a rural village of just 1,000 people, 35km from Metz and Nancy – hosts three to four exhibitions annually.

Parallel to its own exhibitions, the art centre operates a programme of artists' residencies in the village of Lindre-Basse, hosting three artists over the course of a year, each for a period of three months. Participating artists research new works connected to the region and the Parc Naturel Régional de Lorraine.

In 2012, the art centre opened a second venue for cultural events and teaching, awarded as a public commission to artists Berdaguer & Péjus.

• [www.cac-synagoguedelme.org](http://www.cac-synagoguedelme.org)



# Selected highlights from the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

## **Manufacto, The Skills Factory**

October 2018 → June 2019

Second year of operation in 34 schools in the Île-de-France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regions (France)

## **Skills Academy**

Textiles

January → June 2019

Free public admission to the Academy's morning lectures and other events, advance bookings only, subject to availability: [academie@hermes.com](mailto:academie@hermes.com)  
Programme of talks available at: [www.fondationentreprisehermes.org](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org)

## **Exhibition: Jacqueline Mesmaeker**

La Verrière, Brussels (Belgium)

February 1 → March 30, 2019

## **Exhibition: Mari Minato**

The Forum, Tokyo (Japan)

March 21 → May 26, 2019

## **New – Opening exhibition:**

### **Matters of concern – Matières à panser**

La Verrière, Brussels (Belgium)

April 27 → July 6, 2019



## Practical information

### La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis

Rue Coëtlosquet  
57620 Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche

Exhibition open to the public from March 28 to August 26, 2019  
Daily except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Free admission with museum ticket  
Exhibition only: €6, €3

Combined museum ticket + Saint-Louis workshop visit  
Tarifs: €18, €11

→ Information and bookings on 03 87 06 40 04  
or [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com)  
[www.lagrandeplace.fr](http://www.lagrandeplace.fr)

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[www.fondationdentreprisehermes.org](http://www.fondationdentreprisehermes.org)

