



View of the exhibition *Moonraker*, Daniel Arsham, © Claire Dorn / Courtesy of the artist and Perrotin

Carte blanche to Daniel Arsham *Moonraker*

Exhibition extended to June 7, 2021

Commissioners

Sophie Makariou, MNAAG President
Daniel Arsham, Artist
Vincent Lefèvre, MNAAG Conservation
and Collections Manager

With the support of

PERROTIN

In collaboration with the RMN-Grand Palais cast workshop

For this exhibition, the artist Daniel Arsham has selected some works from the vast collection of moulds from the RMN-Grand Palais cast workshop, labelled *Savoir-faire of Excellency and Living Heritage Company*, and relied on the expertise of its mould-makers to assist him in the execution of the works presented.



Combined admission fee

Permanent collections and temporary exhibitions
€11.50 (full price), €8.50 (concessions)
Second entry free with the same ticket within 14 days.

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Visuals available royalty-free for the press
during the exhibition period

For this new contemporary carte blanche, the MNAAG has invited the American artist Daniel Arsham to present his latest series of emblematic sculptures from Antiquity, tackling the artist's favourite subject: archaeology of the future. Given unprecedented access to the molds from the Réunion des musées nationaux - Grand Palais, these works will be displayed amidst the museum's permanent collections. The exhibition will be completed by the installation of a Japanese Zen garden in the rotunda on the museum's 4th floor.

Born in 1980, Daniel Arsham lives and works in New York.

His new series of sculptures has been specially created to be displayed in conjunction with works from the permanent collection of the Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts. The exhibition highlights the artistic diversity of Eastern and Western sculptures, icons of art history from different chronological and geographical periods, creating a dialogue on the place of these objects in time and cultures. Visitors can appreciate their aesthetic and thematic similarities, as well as their diversity and ability to transcend eras and cultures.

Daniel Arsham has imagined their evolution and state over thousands of years: « What does it mean when we have a sculpture from Antiquity, which is familiar to us, that is now appearing before us made of blue calcite crystal and the date of this object is a thousand years in the future? We might project that the object has reformed over time, that an event or some natural geological evolution has altered it. »

These icons are reinterpreted in a state of explicit decomposition, close to destruction and collapse, reinforced by the original addition of crystals, a geological material never used before in traditional sculpture. Visitors may ask themselves the question: are these works disintegrating? Or are they growing together?

In addition to his interest in archaeology, Daniel Arsham has a special relationship with architecture and Japan. Since 2017 at the High Art Museum in Atlanta, the artist has been creating a series of in situ installations inspired by Zen gardens, whose landscapes and patterns are replicated directly from gardens observed in Kyoto.

Particularly intrigued by the way Japanese Zen gardens seem permanent while remaining ephemeral and requiring daily attention, through the effects of light landing on the raked furrows, Daniel Arsham proposes a new immersive experience, reinterpreting these lunar gardens under the MNAAG rotunda. The traditional stones are replaced by a petrified artefact, a Japanese lantern fashioned from blue calcite crystals and hydrostone. The sand is replaced by crushed crystal of the exact colour of the famous Guimet ultramarine blue, the artificial pigment invented in 1826 that made the fortune of the family of the museum's founder, Émile Guimet. The use of colour in these lunar landscapes gives them a simultaneously familiar and surreal look.

« As with all my work, they reflect a reinterpretation of something from the past that has been pushed to the future. »

Musée national des arts asiatiques – Guimet

6, place d'Iéna, 75116 Paris

Hôtel d'Heidelberg – 19 avenue d'Iéna 75116 Paris

Musée d'Ennery – 59 avenue Foch 75116 Paris

Metro : Iéna (9) ou Boissière (6)

Bus : 32, 63, 82 (Iéna) ou 30, 22 (Kléber-Boissière)

Parking : avenue Kléber, avenue George V (place de l'Alma)

Taxis : avenue d'Iéna in front of the museum

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