



François-Xavier Lalanne

1927-2008

Polymorphic Rabbit

Bronze with black patina

Initial FXL and numbered 1/8 - right hind leg

Foundry Rocher - left rear leg

Dimensions : 26 x 36 cm

Dimensions : 10.24 x 14.17 inch

Collection : Creuzevault's collection

Biography

François-Xavier Lalanne was a French sculptor and engraver. He was born in 1927 in Agen.

From 1945, he studied at the Académie Julian in Paris where he learned drawing, sculpture and painting. Working in a studio in Montparnasse, he met his neighbors Constantin Brancusi, René Magritte, Salvador Dali and Jean Tinguely.

In 1952, he made his first personal painting exhibition at the Cimaïse Gallery.

In 1956, he met Claude Lalanne, an artist of the same name. They got married and worked together, under the name " Les Lalanne ". In 1962, an exhibition entitled " Zoophytes " took place at the Jeanine Restany Gallery and presented their shared works.

Animals, fruits and vegetables were the main subjects of their sculptures. They worked with numerous references: Upper Egypt, Art nouveau, Pre-Raphaelite painting and Surrealism. Unique and funny, their works met success with many collectors in Paris, like the Rothschild, the Noailles or even Yves Saint-Laurent who François-Xavier met during the decoration of the Dior store of the avenue Montaigne.

The Lalanne were unclassifiable sculptors. Frequently hybrid, their works entertain and are filled with poetry, surrealism, plays on words, forms and materials. In their opinion, nature offers an infinite number of forms, becoming furniture, objects or jewelry. Animals are frequently presented in a decorative or in a humorous way. The Lalanne wished to combine beauty with utility, technique with creativity. François-Xavier Lalanne said : " when we can sit down on a work of art, it becomes more familiar ".

The Lalanne couple received great public recognition. In 1991, the Castle of Chenonceau presented an exhibition called " Les Lalanne ". In 1998, the Paris Town Hall organized a retrospective at the Bagatelle Park, " Les Lalanne à Bagatelle ". Finally, in 2010, the Museum of Decorative Arts of Paris dedicated an exhibition to their work.

Our three accomplice and funny geese remind us a pair of twins displayed on the "Place du marché aux oies" in Sarlat-la-Canéda which was a major place of fair until the 20th century. The geese sold there until the 1980s have inspired the sculptures to François-Xavier Lalanne.

François-Xavier Lalanne died in Ury in December of 2008, his spouse Claude Lalanne in 2019 in Fontainebleau.

Museums

Jardin du Palais de l'Élysée, Paris

Parc Georges Brassens, Paris

Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris

Château de Brécly

Sarlat-la-Canéda, place des oies

Musée de la Vallée, Barcelonnette

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Agen

Jardin d'aventure des Halles, Paris

Parvis de La Défense

Manufacture nationale, Sèvres

Université de Pennsylvanie, Philadelphie

Bibliography

Daniel Marchesseau, " Les Lalanne ", Paris, Flammarion, 1998, p.112 (related model)

Daniel Abadie, " Lalanne(s) ", Paris, Flammarion, 2008, p.336-337 (drawing of this model and other examples)

Robert Rosenblum, " Les Lalanne ", Genève, Skira, 1991

Olivier Gabet, " Les Lalanne ", Catalogue, préface par Hélène David-Weill, introduction par Béatrice Salmon et

Dominique Forest, Paris, musée des arts décoratifs, 2010