

Jean-Guillaume Mathiaut

At the Palais Royal

4 December - 28 March
Villa Atrata, Palais Royal

Jean-Guillaume Mathiaut's practice is centered on meticulous woodwork, with a particular focus on carved oak. Working at the intersection of sculpture, master craftsmanship and conceptual design, he situates his work within a broader reflection on dwelling and architecture. Challenging the utilitarian function of furniture, he creates "domestic sculptures" that are raw in material yet soft and refined in execution. His world is inhabited by anthropomorphic figures he calls "Mensch" and "fetishes".

For this exhibition, Jean-Guillaume Mathiaut is installing a temporary habitat specifically designed for Villa Atrata. It is a celebration of friendship, where each object is a unique piece. The space is conceived as a living environment in constant evolution, transforming according to the invitations extended to other creators and thinkers.

The front area of the gallery is transformed into a ceremonial space featuring wall assemblages and sculptural seating, where the distinction between artwork and utilitarian object is deliberately blurred. A towering structure reminiscent of a library, serving as a monumental frame for the "Mensch", dominates the room. A singular throne, specifically dedicated to the female figure, is positioned as a seat of honor at the heart of the installation.

The rear section is arranged like a creative laboratory housing a cabinet of curiosities and a large landscape-table complemented by seats, creating a functional and welcoming environment that encourages meaningful exchanges.

The installation at Villa Atrata is an invitation to inhabit art: Jean-Guillaume Mathiaut reminds us that the domestic object, often relegated to mere utility, is in fact the silent guardian of our deepest human connections.

Jean-Guillaume Mathiaut is a French sculptor, conceptual designer and architect whose practice is deeply influenced by nature. He lives and works in the heart of the Fontainebleau forest, where he gathers naturally fallen wood to create what he calls his "landscape furniture."

Selected collaborations: Saint Laurent, Hermès, Alain Ducasse and Baccarat.