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## REVELATIONS 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION: FOR FIVE DAYS, THE HEART OF THE GRAND PALAIS PULSED TO THE BEAT OF FINE CRAFTS AND DESIGN

The 2019 edition of the International Fine Craft and Creation Biennial closed its doors at the Grand Palais on Sunday 26 May. 37522 visitors attended the event (an increase in daily visitor numbers), of whom 20% came from abroad. 500 designers showed their talents and exceptional works, while the country of honour, Luxembourg, celebrated its cultural identity and the vitality of its fine crafts. Against the backdrop of a very favourable business climate, the fair once again confirmed its leading position within the design world – at the intersection between discovery, sharing and mutual emulation for its practitioners.

### A TRULY INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Showcasing 500 designers from 33 countries, Revelations, organised by Ateliers d'Art de France, has once again shown itself to be the premier international event for fine crafts and design. With increasing numbers of international visitors (from 56 countries), the biennial is now clearly the go-to event for a constantly growing audience (1/3 professionals and 2/3 general public).

The Luxembourg Pavilion, the country featured this year, was one of the highlights of this 4th edition. The exciting selection exhibited celebrated beauty of execution, materials and skills, and offered an original introduction to the crafts of the Grand Duchy.

The international Banquet exhibition, the fair's hallmark event, lived up to its reputation for surprise: the exhibiting stands, each managed by one of the 11 partner countries (South Africa, Cameroon, Canada,

Chile, Spain, France, India, Iran, Luxembourg, Romania and Thailand) displayed works of traditional craftsmanship distinguished by their incredible modernity.

The World Crafts Council Europe exhibition, for its 40th anniversary, greeted visitors on their arrival at the Grand Palais with 24 exceptional works from 18 European countries.

At the same time, the "Crafting Europe symposium: towards a European strategy for craft", on Thursday 23 May, provided a unique forum for public policy makers, fine-crafts professionals and international institutions in the sector to engage in collaborative dialogue with a view to developing a plan for the future of fine crafts in Europe. At the end of the event, a manifesto for the European recognition of fine crafts, jointly promoted by the Ateliers d'Art de France and the World Craft Council Europe, with six specific proposals, was released. It can be found [here](#).



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### AN IMPORTANT HUB FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS

An extensive clientele of collectors and renowned professionals (artistic directors, architects, interior decorators, gallery owners) came to meet with the exhibitors who reported making good contacts, direct sales and the start of inspiring partnerships.

A number of institutional meetings also took place over these five days. A speed-dating event brought together interior-design and architecture studios, manufacturers, publishers and fitters and craftspeople; there was also a roundtable session on the future of design in Africa. The conference programme focused on current issues for the industry such as training, regulations and regional policy in France and abroad.

The territorial anchorage of Revelations was boosted by the support of many stakeholders: the City of Paris, the Ateliers de Paris, the Paris Chambre de Métiers et de l'Artisanat; the regions of Occitanie, Nouvelle Aquitaine and Centre-Val-de-Loire; associations and federations (the Maîtres d'Art, distinguished art professionals and their students, the Fédération des Emailliers (enamellers), Association Française pour le Tournage d'Art sur Bois (artistic wood turning), and Esprit Porcelaine).

### MANY OFFICIAL GUESTS

TRH, Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, welcomed by Aude Tahon, President of the Ateliers d'Art de France and Revelations, inaugurated the fair on Wednesday, 22 May 2019.

They were accompanied by Princess Stephanie and Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg, Ms Sam Tanson, Minister of Culture and Housing of Luxembourg, Mr Lex Delles, Minister of the Middle Classes and Tourism, and, for France, by Ms Béatrice Salmon, deputy director responsible for visual arts for the regional directorate of cultural affairs – Ministry of Culture.

Revelations also welcomed a large number of ambassadors and representatives of the countries exhibited at the Banquet, and further afield.

### REFLECTION, EXCHANGE AND SHARING – THE OTHER SIDE OF REVELATIONS

Considerable work was invested in the schedule to enhance the experience of visitors in all their diversity.

A programme of special meetings with designers was also arranged for VIPs at a number of outstanding venues in Paris, while guided tours and cultural mediation for the Banquet exhibition led to detailed communication on the works exhibited and raised public awareness of a unique range of designs and skills.

Numerous talks and film screenings, open to all, offered introductions to crafts from around the world, techniques and materials, and gave rise to personal accounts, exchanges and discussion.

Finally, throughout the entire week-end, 144 children aged between 5 and 12 enjoyed a hands-on experience of basketry, stained-glass, wool felt and engraving, at workshops run by French fine-craft professionals.

### A SPECIAL HORS LES MURS CIRCUIT

An exceptional circuit organised in partnership with 14 private and public venues in Paris added the finishing touch and established the capital as the epicentre of fine crafts and design for these 5 days. The Hors les Murs venues: Maison Deyrolle, Drouot, Artcurial, Maison Lesage, Maria Wettergren Gallery, Villa Datris Foundation, DS World Paris, Patrick Roger, 19 Paul Fort, the Finnish Institute, Librairie Galignani, Collection Gallery, L'Atelier, Empreintes and Talents.

The Maison des Métiers d'Art in Pézenas and La Nef in Montpellier offered two additional stops elsewhere in France.

### MEET-UP IN 2021

For 2021, Revelations will take place in May to meet up with designers, partners and visitors to celebrate its fifth edition with an exciting new take as it will be hosted at a temporary Grand Palais (the Grand Palais being under works for the Olympic Games of 2024), at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

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