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## *Yves Dana, Un autre regard sur la sculpture*

Selling exhibition  
5 - 26 October 2023

The Post-War & Contemporary Art department at Artcurial presents from 5–26 October 2023 an exhibition spotlighting the remarkable sculptor Yves Dana. This exclusive presentation includes 16 works in stone and bronze from the Egyptian-born, Swiss artist, spanning 25 years of his career. Produced in collaboration with Waddington Custot, the exhibition, Dana's first major presentation in France, presents an opportunity to discover the work of this highly regarded sculptor, beloved by collectors across the world

PARIS – From 5 October 2023, Artcurial, in collaboration with Waddington Custot, presents an exhibition of Yves Dana, known for his graceful, pared-back sculptures in stone and bronze, inspired by ancient Egyptian and Cycladic forms. This exhibition traces the creative development of this extraordinary sculptor from the mid-1990s to today, shown for the first time in France.

Two monumental works in bronze, 'Figure en expansion', 2023, and 'Figure en devenir', 2023, lead visitors through the space to the heart of the main exhibition.

Dana was born in Alexandria, Egypt, but during a period of political unrest his family was exiled from their home country and made their way to Europe, finally settling in Lausanne in Switzerland. Decades later in 1996, Dana made a trip to his birth country, which would prove to be transformative; working on the edges of the Egyptian desert, he started to sculpt with plaster and stone, redirecting his aesthetic toward simpler forms. Dana then began his Stèles series: 'Stèle XII', 1997, included in the exhibition, reveals the artist's close attention to the distinctive clean lines and minimalist carving of Cycladic idols; its textured surface is reminiscent of the ancient stone slabs engraved with hieratic script that Dana had encountered in Egypt. Many of Dana's upright sculptures also find their origins in the country, inspired by the Egyptian felucca: simple, traditional sailboats used in pharaonic times and still in operation today.

'Figure au levant', 2013 and 'Le silence des pierres', 2017, show the different ways in which Dana reinterprets this original form to create elegant, fluid sculptures.

The artist pays close attention to surface, patina and scale. Each work, carefully laboured over in Dana's studios in Pietrasanta and Lausanne, is created instinctively, without pre-drawings or maquettes. Instead the sculptor responds in dialogue with the individual qualities of his material, as he describes:

*« We often say "silent as a stone." » But when I look at a block of stone, it talks to me, it whispers, and transmits to me the secret energy it contains. Volcanic rock or limestone, within these stones is the stored memory of millions of years of transformation and mutation... It is a language, a kind of music, which I try to listen to, accompany, and follow with my hands. »*

To accompany the exhibition, Yves Dana publishes a new, updated edition of his catalogue raisonné, fully illustrated, and featuring an interview between the artist and rabbi and philosopher Marc-Alain Ouaknin. A collectable limited edition of this comprehensive tome features a bronze relief recessed on top of an oak slipcase.



Yves DANA  
Stèle XII, 1997  
Bronze  
40kg - 90 x 40 x 20 cm  
© Yves Dana



Yves DANA  
Aux origines, 2022  
Gabbro (pierre volcanique)  
80kg - 66 x 96 x 63 cm  
© Yves Dana



Yves Dana workshop in-  
Lausanne, Switzerland

## Yves Dana

Yves Dana was born in 1959 in Alexandria, Egypt. In 1961, the Dana family left Egypt for Switzerland, where the artist settled. After studying Sociology at the University of Lausanne (1979–1981), Dana set up his first sculpture studio and earned an MFA from l'École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Geneva, in 1983. From then on, Dana devoted his time entirely to sculpture and spent years exploring different materials, quickly achieving recognition with regular exhibitions. Dana sources the best quality stone from around the world, including limestone from Egypt, France and Turkey, serpentine from Italy and diabase from Germany. He combines innovative carving techniques with traditional tools to create precise planar forms. With each work created over several weeks or months, the physicality of carving stone, with deep sensitivity to its tones and texture, is evident in the subtlest details of each work.

In 1987, at the suggestion of the City of Lausanne, Dana moved his studio to the Orangerie of Parc Mon Repos. The sunlit 19th-century orangery offered a double-height space that allowed Dana to create work on a larger scale. His monumental sculptures are in public spaces worldwide, including in the United States of America, France, Greece, Switzerland and Japan. Dana's work

has been selected for important museums and gallery exhibitions, including the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; Jan Krugier Gallery, New York; Galerie Krugier-Ditesheim, Geneva, and Tel Aviv Museum of Art where a sculpture was installed in the entrance to the building. In 2015, Dana's works were presented in a retrospective exhibition at Arlaud Museum, Lausanne and chronicled in a significant 420-page monograph. The same year, he received the Grand Prix from the Vaudoise Foundation for Culture.

Yves Dana lives and works in Lausanne, Switzerland and Pietrasanta, Italy.

***« Yves Dana's sculptures are timeless, and yet at the same time they are effortlessly contemporary. His mastery of his materials, bronze and stone, is remarkable and the results are exceptionally elegant »***

- Stéphane Custot  
Waddington Custot

***«To bring together a quarter of a century of an artist's work is important here; through this exhibition as are able to show the development of Yves Dana's visual language and the many reasons why his sculpture features in some of the most important collections of art in the world »***

- Hugues Sebilleau  
Post-War & Contemporary director, Artcurial

## USEFUL INFORMATION

Public exhibition :  
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## PRESS MATERIAL

High resolution images available  
on request

Full catalogue available to view  
on [artcurial.com](http://artcurial.com)

### *À propos d'Artcurial*

Fondée en 2002, Artcurial, première maison de ventes aux enchères en France basée à Paris, conforte en 2022 sa place de premier plan sur le marché de l'art international.

Avec 3 lieux de ventes à Paris, Monaco et Marrakech, la maison totalise 216,5 millions d'euros en volume de ventes en 2022. Elle couvre l'ensemble du champ des grandes spécialités : des Beaux-Arts aux Arts Décoratifs, Automobiles de collection, Joaillerie, Horlogerie de collection, Vins fins et Spiritueux...

Résolument tournée vers l'international, Artcurial affirme son réseau à l'étranger avec des bureaux de représentation à Bruxelles, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich et Marrakech, ainsi qu'une présence en Autriche et en Espagne.

En avril 2023, Artcurial s'implante en Suisse par l'acquisition de la maison de vente Beurret Bailly Widmer Auktionen avec l'ambition de développer son réseau au sein de cette zone européenne.

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