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Éloge de la Lumière

Pierre Soulages - Tanabe Chikuunsai IV. In praise of light

Laure Schwartz-Arenales

Fabienne Fravalo

Philippe Boudin

Maezaki Shinya

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV

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- Brings together two masters of light and darkness, materiality and abstraction, French painter Pierre Soulages and Japanese bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV
- The catalogue for a show at the Baur Foundation in Switzerland, a museum of Far Eastern Art, from November 2021 – March 2022

This catalogue documents an exhibition at the Baur Foundation that brings together work by the French painter Pierre Soulages (b.1919) and the Japanese master bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV (b. 1973). Soulages, still working at 102 years old, has painted almost exclusively in black since 1979 and is known as the “master of luminous blacks”. Tanabe Chikuunsai IV is a renowned bamboo artist, known for his twisting organic sculptures and room-sized installations made from tiger or black bamboo. The aim of this exhibition is to explore how their work resonates, despite different approaches, in the dark and light effects of their materials.

Text in French and English.

Published to accompany an exhibition at the Baur Foundation in Switzerland, a museum of Far Eastern Art, from November 2021–March 2022.

A graduate of the Ecole du Louvre and holder of a doctorate from Paris IV Sorbonne,**Laure Schwartz-Arenales** began her career at the Musée national des Arts asiatiques-Guimet and at the Ecole du Louvre, where she taught Far Eastern arts. Her research on ancient Japanese painting, carried out since 1998 in Japan (University of Tōhoku - Kyōto National Museum), was rewarded in 2007 by the Kajima Foundation for the Arts. Professor at Ochanomizu University and then at Sophia University (Tōkyō), she has been director of the Baur Foundation, Museum of Far Eastern Arts in Geneva since 2018.

Currently curator of the decorative arts collection at Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (Geneva),**Fabienne Fravalo** has a PhD in art history from the University of Neuchâtel and Clermont Ferrant. Studies and research at the INHA (Paris) and is also the author of a monograph on the ceramist Emile Decoeur, published in collaboration with the Galerie Michel Giraud, Paris.

Philippe Boudin directs with his daughter Zoé Niang the Mingei Gallery right in the heart of Saint Germain-des-Près. This gallery specialises in the art of Japanese bamboo basketry, of which it holds the leadership in Europe. His gallery organises numerous thematic exhibitions and actively collaborates with museums and advises private collectors.

Maezaki Shinya is a specialist in Japanese design and interior design. After earning a PhD in 2009 from the School of Oriental and African Studies SOAS at the University of London, he has been an associate professor at Kyoto Women's University since 2015. He has published numerous works concerning Japanese interior design from the twentieth to the twenty-first century.

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV is the heir to a dynasty of bamboo masters in Kansai. His go (artist's name) "Chikuunsai" means "bamboo cloud". His international status gives him a prominent place in the field of this art form which is still unknown in Europe. His works can now be found in the world's most important museums.







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