



PRESS RELEASE
WONDER LAB BEIJING
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CHINA
12 JANUARY - 17 MARCH 2019

WONDER LAB, the first museum exhibition in China dedicated to French Master Artisans, was launched on 11 January at the prestigious National Museum of China in Beijing.

Bringing together 15 of the most talented French artistic craftsmen and women, the WONDER LAB exhibition offers a fresh perspective on contemporary creation. From silvermithery to ceramics, artistry with feathers, tortoiseshell glass, leather, straw, paper and textile, the excellence and diversity of French fine crafts are put on view in China for the first time.

The curator of the exhibition H  l  ne Kelmachter, a specialist of contemporary art, has chosen to highlight creators with unique personalities, who combine tradition with innovation.

Resolutely contemporary, the exhibition embarks visitors on an unparalleled aesthetic journey that intersects expertise, mediums, life journeys, and men and women who are determined to expand, reinvent and transmit their skills.

In his inauguration speech, the French Ambassador in China, Jean-Maurice Ripert, said the exhibition was truly magnificent and reminded the public of *'the threat that endangers fine crafts. In a world of frenzied consumerism and standardisation of products, their survival is at stake.'*

To support a project on fine crafts, is to respond to our duty to protect ancient know-hows, to transmit a heritage and ancestral skills and techniques.

These master artisans are revealed, through the craftsmanship and dexterity of their work, to be great artists. When we see these objects, some of which were created using precious materials, we see priceless treasures.'

About fifty Chinese journalists came to the inauguration, to discover the creativity and diversity of French fine crafts through the fifteen master artisans presented in the WONDER LAB exhibition. They were featured on the Chinese public television station CCTV, as well as in many articles in newspapers and websites such as Art China, The Paper, Sina, Phoenix New Media, and Radio Chine Internationale.

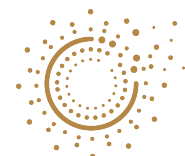
Exhibition initiated by: HEART & crafts
Curated by: H  l  ne Kelmachter
Exhibition design: Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture
Lighting : Abraxas Concept

Exhibition co-organised with the National Museum of China, with the support of the French Ministry of Culture, the French Embassy in China, INMA (Institut Fran  ais des M  tiers d'Art) and Institut Fran  ais and in partnership with Beijing Sen Ying Culture Media Co., Ltd.

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