



PRESS RELEASE
WONDER LAB BEIJING
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CHINA

EXTENSION OF THE WONDER LAB EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CHINA

As French President Emmanuel Macron and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping celebrate the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Paris and Beijing, the National Museum of China has announced that WONDER LAB, the first museum exhibition dedicated to French Master Artisans in China, would be extended to 4 May.

Bringing together 15 of the most talented French artistic craftsmen and women, the WONDER LAB exhibition offers a fresh perspective on contemporary creation. From silversmithery 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.

A symbol of the celebration of 55 years of diplomatic and inter-cultural dialogue between France and China, and of the ambition shared by Macron and Xi to further and promote cultural and artistic exchanges between both countries, the exhibition has been extended by the National Museum of China following its success.

Inaugurated on 11 January, WONDER LAB is a tribute to the talent of our French and Chinese national living treasures, with the ambition of revealing a field of contemporary creation that engages with art and design. It intersects expertise, mediums, creators who combine vocation with tradition and innovation.

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.'*

This Franco-Chinese dialogue will carry through as the exhibition continues its travels across China, enriching itself with numerous artistic encounters between French and Chinese master artisans.

Exhibition initiated by: HEART & crafts
Curated by: H el ene 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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