



Photo : Gérard Jonca / Sèvres Manufacture et Musée nationaux

## matali crasset – capes

Throughout PARIS DESIGN WEEK (6 – 15 September) and until 27 October, the Sèvres Gallery in Paris presents creations by the French designer matali crasset, produced at the Manufacture in 2018. One of the most iconoclastic creators of her generation, she has evidently imagined her own personal and wonderfully singular interpretation of Sèvres’ vases, notably adorning them with “capes”.

matali crasset has also seized upon the Manufacture’s exceptional palette of colours to embellish these unique porcelain forms.

“I long refused to design furnishings and especially vases! Indeed, rather than any designing, this project entails the making of choices. It amounts to imagining vases as a method. This series is structured around a protocol as an escape from aestheticism, in the manner of an Oulipian game.

Strolling about and exploring the vast library of ‘forms’ that is the Manufacture de Sèvres, I spotted seemingly anthropomorphic vases that I then desired to associate with others through imbrication, as a sort of hybridization. These multiple combinations consist of the second vase dressing or adorning the first. Pursuing this couture analogy, I ‘cut’, I ‘tailor’ the vases with the artisans’ assistance, I hollow or scoop them out, to develop plays of light and shadow, full and empty spaces.

This operation is renewed several times, so as to give birth to a ‘procession’ of silhouettes. I then collaborate with the workshops overseeing high-fire glazes, foundation applications and spinning, to determine the colours for these volumes.”

This exhibition presents a dozen different creations, with some sporting Sèvres’ emblematic blue, white and gold.

## biography of matali crasset

Born on 28 July 1965 in Châlons-en-Champagne, matali crasset studied industrial design.

As reflected by one of her emblematic objects, the so-called “hospitality column” *Quand Jim monte à Paris*, the artist implements her very own methodology in which she questions the obviousness or ubiquity of our everyday codes, so as to better escape their grasp and thereby experiment. In this manner, she develops new typologies structured around such principles as modularity, appropriation, flexibility and networking. Her work, which emerged in the 1990s as a refusal of pure form, is meant as a search-in-movement, comprising principally hypotheses rather than principles.

She collaborates with wonderfully different worlds, from crafts to electronic music, the textile industry to fair trade. Her eclectic projects have thus led her to explore unexpected domains, from scenography to furniture, the graphic arts to interior design.

## matali crasset news

Among the designer’s numerous upcoming projects, her creation entitled *Saule et les Hooppies*, commissioned by the Centre Pompidou, will tour France, hopping from town to town to musically delight children aged 5 to 10. She also recently designed “les presses du réel” bookshop and the “Anna Sanders Films” cinema for the Consortium Museum in Dijon.



matali crasset à Sèvres en 2018.  
Photo Sarah Mineraud

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## artist residencies at Sèvres

In keeping with its missions, the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres offers on-site residencies to international artists and designers who explore and experiment with, each in his or her own way, ceramics – particularly porcelain, a material as fascinating as it is complex. Guest artists can draw inspiration from Sèvres' vast repertoire of several hundred forms. They also have access to its exceptional palette of over a thousand colours, which can be further enriched by new shades upon their request. The Manufacture's resident artists and its artisans thus benefit from this constant creative dialogue. And in this manner, new works of art and decorative objects further extend and enrich Sèvres' history and heritage, before their acquisition by collectors, cultural institutions and the Palaces of the French Republic.

### **MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 ("OPÉRA" AREA, PARIS DESIGN WEEK)**

**- PRESS RECEPTION: FROM 2 TO 6 PM**

**- PRIVATE VIEWING: FROM 6 TO 9 PM**

### **CONTACTS**

**Sèvres**  
Sylvie PERRIN  
[presse@sevresceramique.fr](mailto:presse@sevresceramique.fr)  
+33 (0)1 46 29 38 38 / +33 (0) 6 25 12 82

**Agence Observatoire**  
Véronique JANNEAU  
[veronique@observatoire.fr](mailto:veronique@observatoire.fr)  
Apolline EHKIRCH  
[apolline@observatoire.fr](mailto:apolline@observatoire.fr)  
+33 (0)1 43 54 87 71 / 07 82 04 83 75

[WWW.SEVRESCERAMIQUE.FR](http://WWW.SEVRESCERAMIQUE.FR)

