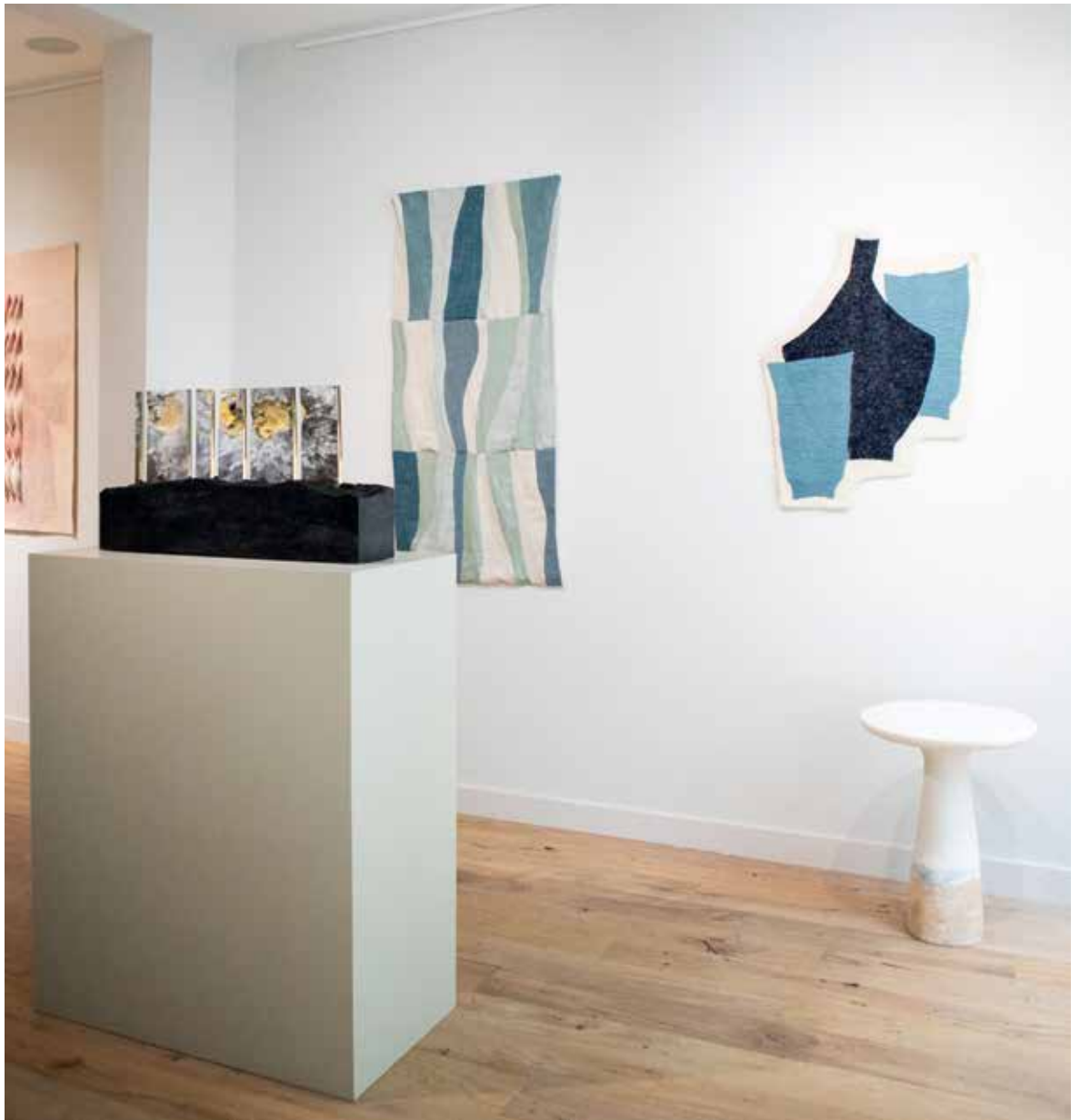


# states of matter

15 september - 14 october 2023



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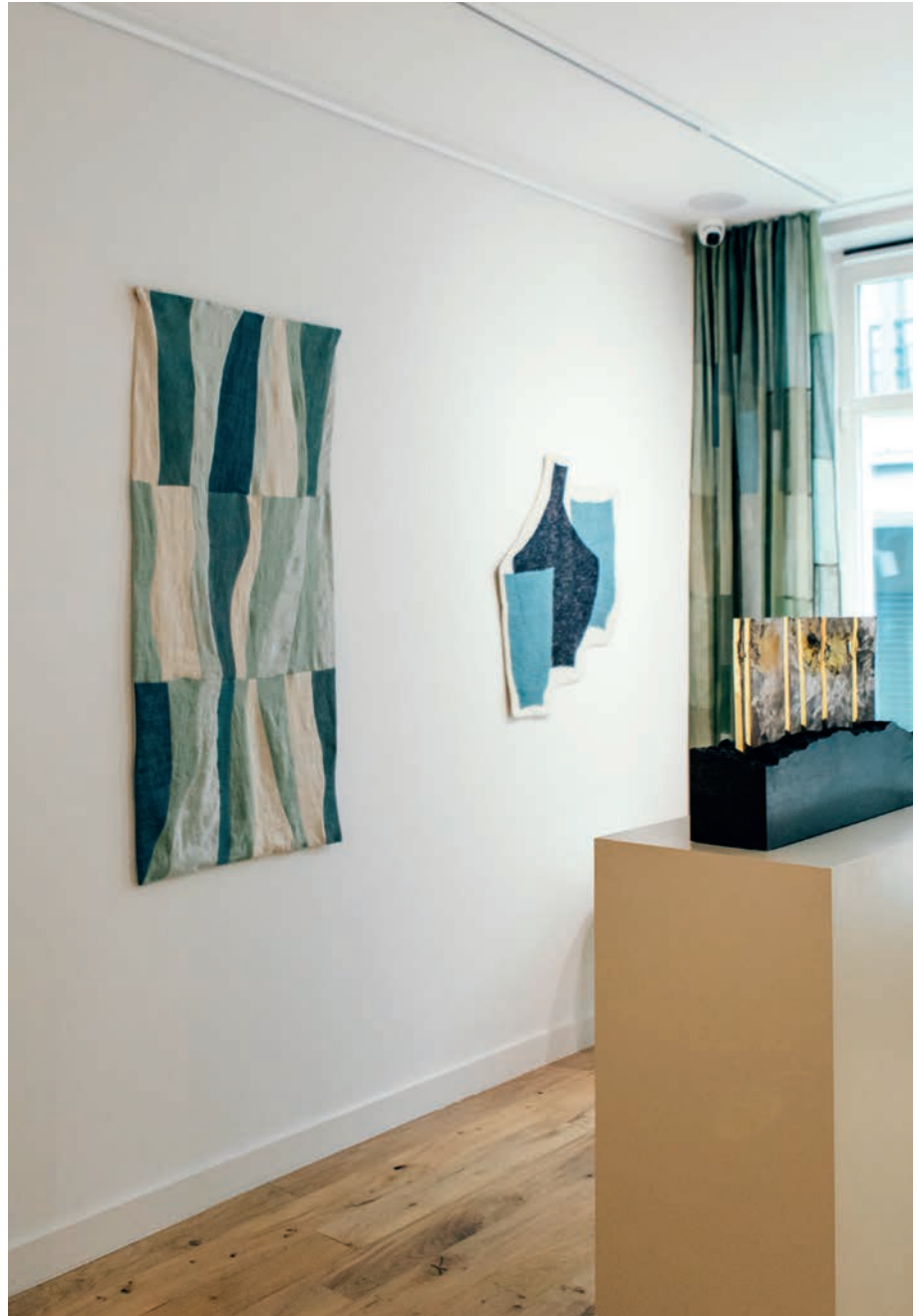
La Gadoue

Louise Richard

Roxane Lahidji in collaboration  
with Clémentine Le Guérec

Ariane van Dievoet  
and Didier Henry

15 september - 14 oktober 2023



**Augusta presents its opening exhibition, *states of matter*. An exhibition that starts a conversation on the diversity of sustainable approaches to design in Belgium.**

Specialising in sustainable design, Augusta gallery is exhibiting unique and innovative pieces created by designers using repurposed or bio-sourced materials. This first exhibition sets the tone by highlighting the work of seven designers based in Brussels who are exploring the possibilities of materials and production techniques with a sustainable approach: Eloïse Maës and Audrey Werthle from La Gadoue Atelier, Roxane Lahidji collaborating with Clémentine Le Guérec, Louise Richard and the duo formed by Ariane van Dievoet and Didier Henry.

States of matter focuses on materials and textures : the density of wool meeting the hypnotic appearance of salt, the robustness of brass and stone combined contrasting with the transparency of linen. Each of the designers presented focuses on one or two materials, their specific features, their imperfections and their reaction to fire or water to create unique works.

The common thread is an approach to design based on the transformation of these materials: natural materials, offcuts and damaged products are cut up, combined or melted to create new materials. All potential solutions for introducing more sustainable and environmentally-friendly production processes in the world of design.





## La GADOUE Atelier

La Gadoue Atelier presents impressive geometric curtains and three wall pieces created by assembling scraps of linen and cotton fabrics. Inspired by water, these new pieces showcase the evolution of the expertise of Eloïse Maës and Audrey Werthle.

It's a central feature of the gallery: the transparency of the geometric curtains created by La Gadoue catches the eye right from the windows. Custom-made for Augusta, where they will remain permanently, the pair gives a unique personality to the space.

It was during a training in vegetable dyes in Brittany with Michel Garcia, a leading expert in the field, that the designers developed the gradation of greens that colours the linen pieces. «The green of the landscape and the chestnut trees in the Breton hinterland were our inspiration. They matched what we imagined for Augusta.»

The region was also a source of inspiration for the colours in La Laita 1 and 2 - named after a Breton river - two wall pieces created for states of matter. As for Malmousque, it bears the name of a seaside neighbourhood of Marseilles and evokes its vibrant tones.

Water is the theme of the series: «the tones and shapes of rivers, confluents, currents of fresh and salt water,...» It is also at the heart of their dyeing work: «it's a very physical process with vegetable dye baths. Everything is done by hand.»





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**La Gadoue** is a duo of French designers based in Brussels, Eloïse Maës and Audrey Werthle. Specialising in textiles and ceramics, they define themselves as designers and craftswomen. They create with four hands, challenging materials and techniques in a circular approach.

The duo draws their inspiration from nature and upcycling. They work with fabric scraps from a variety of sources, including discontinued furnishing fabrics and second-hand shirts. The pieces on display at Augusta were made from upholstery scraps collected from a Belgian interior designer.

**Eloïse Maës** and **Audrey Werthle** began designing together during their studies at the Design Academy in Eindhoven. After graduating, they set up their studio in Brussels. They soon began creating large-scale installations and projects, using a circular approach. Their most recent project is the creation of gigantic curtains for the lobby and restaurant of the Mix hotel in Brussels.

# Roxane Lahidji

## in collaboration with Clémentine Le Guérec

The founder of Marbled Salts, Roxane Lahidji, creates furniture, objects and lamps in an innovative material she has developed from sea salt. She is launching two new models at Augusta with designer Clémentine Le Guérec.

Her work incites amazement and curiosity : The furniture and objects designed by Roxane Lahidji have the appearance and weight of marble and stone but are created in salt. The selection of pieces on show at Augusta includes a table, a meditation stool and lamps, all signature pieces of her brand, as well as a new series of black and white vases and a centrepiece developed with Clémentine Le Guérec.

The Marble Salt objects are made from salt, water and natural binders. This mix is biodegradable, reusable and repairable. A few layers of resin protect the pieces and give them a « real stone » feeling. The salted mixture is worked by hand and can be sculpted or moulded, like concrete or plaster. A material that continues to surprise Roxane Lahidji, after six years of mastery. «The development of each new object requires testing and experimentation.» Clémentine Le Guérec particularly enjoys this research work : «We play with the density of the material, its thickness, the luminosity...The production process will never stop evolving.»



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**Roxane Lahidji** is a social designer and the founder of Marble Salts, an award-winning line of objects and furniture made of salt. Originally from Paris, she designs and creates in her workshop at Zaventem Atelier, just outside of Brussels. Although her work has been exhibited in galleries in London, New York, Dubai and Moscow, Augusta is the first gallery in Brussels to present her creations.

Roxane Lahidji developed and designed her first salt pieces in 2017, as her graduation project at the Design Academy Eindhoven. She immediately received proposals for collaborations and exhibitions. The Design Museum of Ghent, the CID Grand Hornu and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris acquired Marbled Salts pieces for their permanent design collections.

Born in Marseille, **Clémentine Le Guérec** studied industrial design at La Cambre and holds a Master's degree in luxury and craftsmanship from Ecal, in Lausanne. She first joined Roxane Lahidji's workshop as an intern. She just returned as a collaborator in charge of the development of limited series of objects.

# Louise Richard

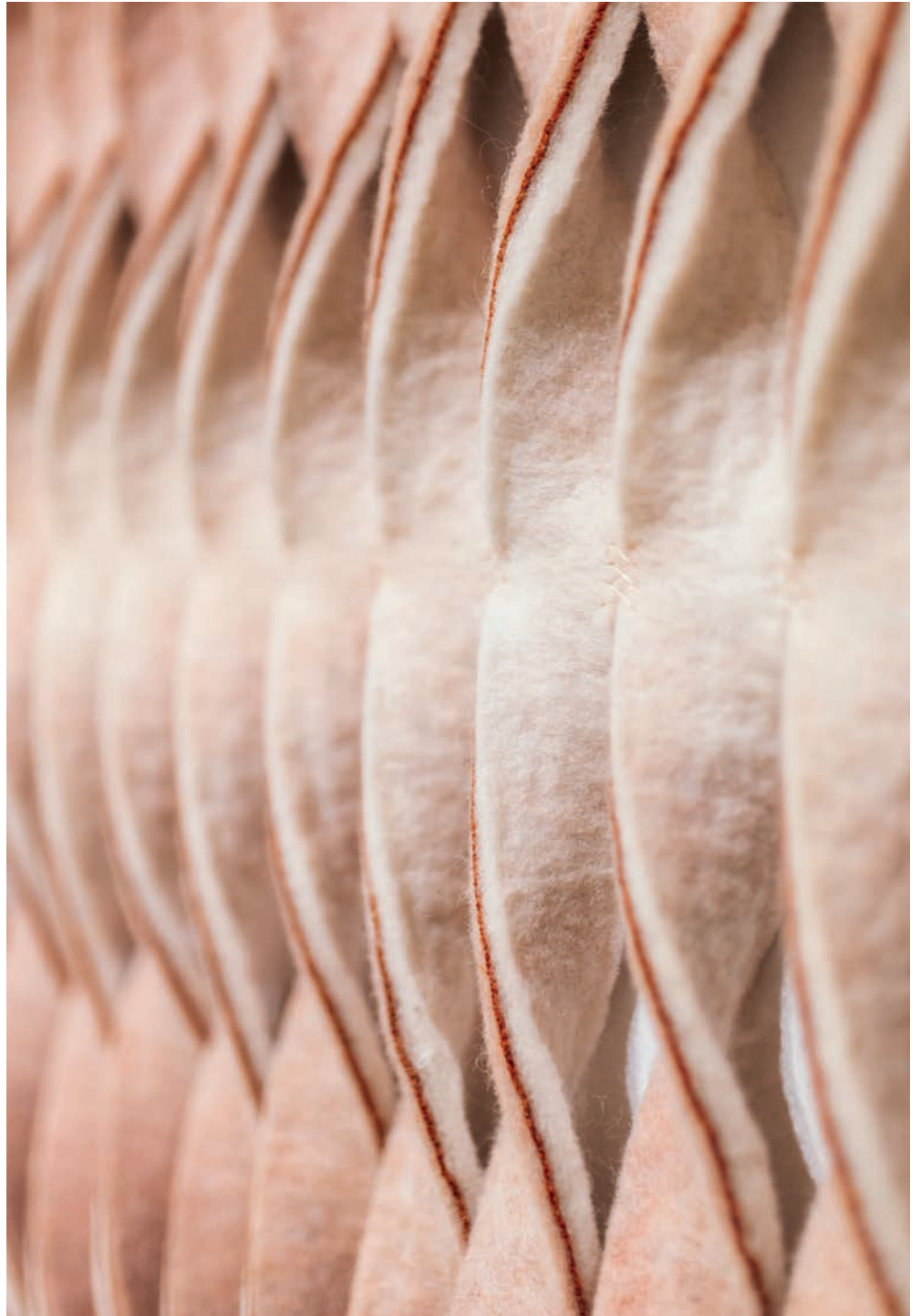
Louise Richard displays four of her «Murales» on the walls of the gallery. These textile works from her MultiFelt line were created by felting wool and fragments of clothes.

As one approaches Louise Richard's pieces, one can guess the sleeves and busts of the woollen jumpers that form the base material for her creations. The selected elements allow her to create colourful compositions and to play with shapes and textures.

By combining distorted, stained and used pieces of clothing with local virgin wool and by working them in water, she creates a multi-layered felt. Water and repetitive movement allow the fibres to intertwine and bring out the colours. "This process gives me the possibility to play with thickness and add layers." These strata are visible on her impressive twisted wall piece called Punto di fuga - vanishing point.

It was her affection for wool, a material that is part of everyday life, and her interest in recycling issues that sparked off her creative process. «I was looking for a certain autonomy in the production of a material made from recycled textiles. Felting wool means you can reuse it without relying on the industry." She is particularly fond of Cyclup, a recycling centre located in the Marolles district, minutes away from Augusta.





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**Louise Richard** is a textile designer based in Brussels. Her MultiFelt line, made of felted damaged clothes and virgin wool, includes interior objects and wall pieces. She also creates woven pieces in jacquard, plaids or tapestries. In the spirit of the MultiFelt project, the objective is to develop a weaving line combining recycled and local wool yarns.

After 10 years of urban planning projects in France and then in Belgium, Louise Richard turned to textile design in 2017. Inspired by Charlotte Perriand, she envisages creation through materials and their manipulation. MultiFelt was born during her Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels.

# Ariane van Dievoet and Didier Henry

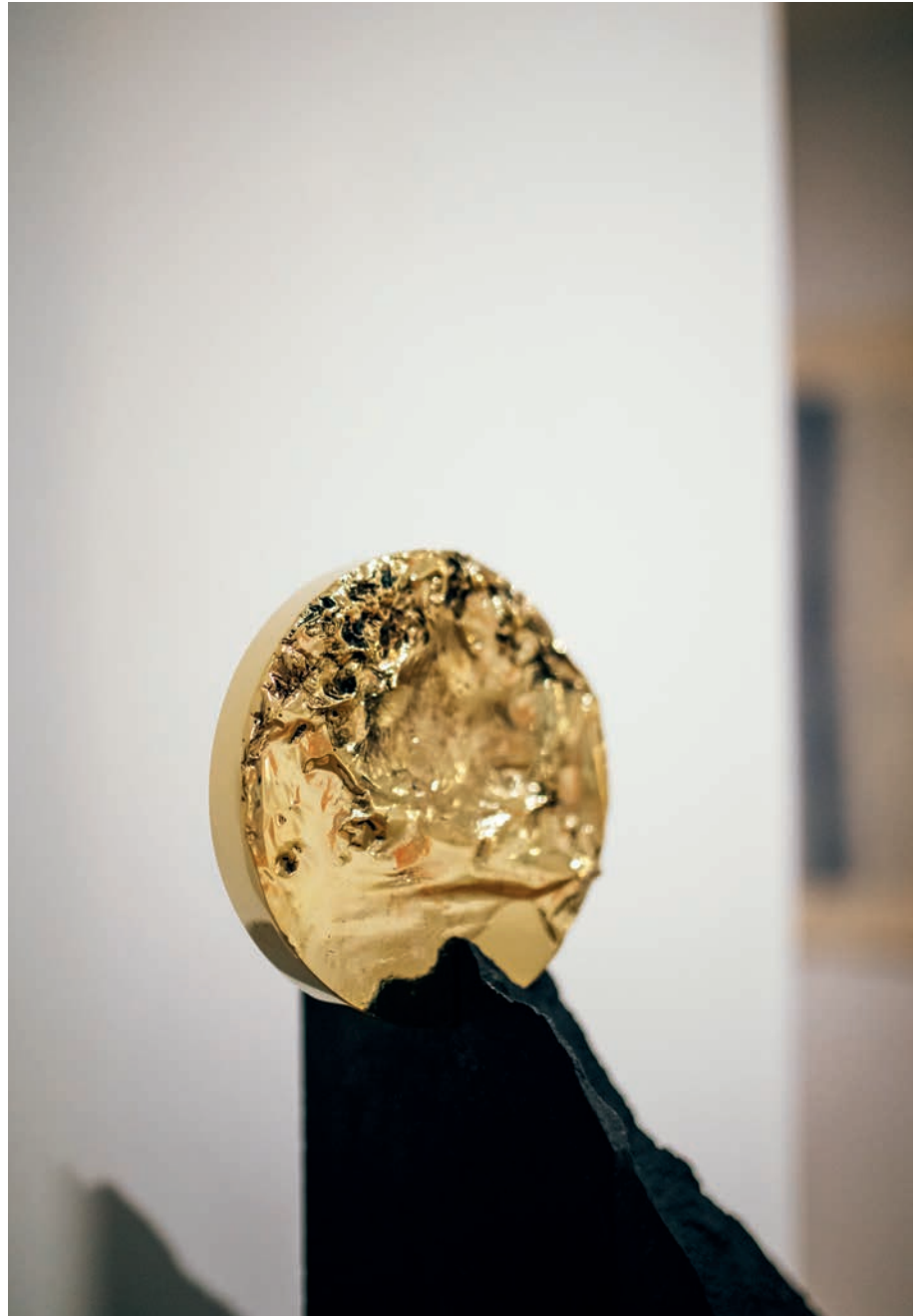
Blacksmith Didier Henry and designer Ariane van Dievoet unveil the latest pieces from their collaboration, based on experimentation and the reuse of materials. These new sculptures bring out the blue stone bases that seem to merge with the brass pieces, creating dialogue between stone and metal.

The moon-like sculptures created by Ariane van Dievoet and Didier Henry are the result of their collaboration and experimentation with the forge. They unite their skills as designer and metalworker to melt the pieces of brass and give them that unique look. While perfecting their interaction with the fire, they have learned to embrace the unexpected and create around it.

Some of the brass pieces are polished and/or brushed. Others are left raw, displaying the fire patina. All are placed with precision on carefully selected stone bases.

The reuse of unused materials from their respective workshops was the starting point for their first series of sculptures. When Didier's brass leftovers ran out, they found another source of scraps from his supplier, which enabled them to experiment with different thicknesses and adapt to the formats available. The reclaimed fragments of stone that make up the supports come from the RotorDC cooperative in Brussels and from Hebette frères in Havelange, a marble factory located near Didier Henry's workshop. The nature and size of these off-cuts has opened up a whole new range of challenges and possibilities in shapes and sizes for the duo.





**Didier Henry**, a blacksmith, is passionate about the possibilities offered by the transformation of metal. He works with steel, brass, stainless steel and aluminium to create bespoke pieces. Didier Henry has been working with metals since 2006. Attracted by the fire of the forge and the plasticity of white-hot steel, he first trained alongside an old country blacksmith. Then, he studied in the forge of the Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Anderlecht, before setting up his own metal work business in 2015.

Founder of AVANDI Studio, **Ariane van Dievoet** specialises in the recycling of construction materials and sustainable design. As a designer and sculptor, she combines traditional and digital techniques to shape offcuts of wood, bluestone, marble, mirror, brass, and all materials she can get her hands on. Her degree in interior and spatial design from the Chelsea College of Art, in London, and her master's degree in Adaptive reuse in interior architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), in the United States, laid the foundations for her research. Ariane van Dievoet began her career in Brooklyn, where she worked for five years and founded AVANDI Studio. She then returned to her hometown of Brussels in 2018 to establish her studio there. She is the co-founder of Augusta.

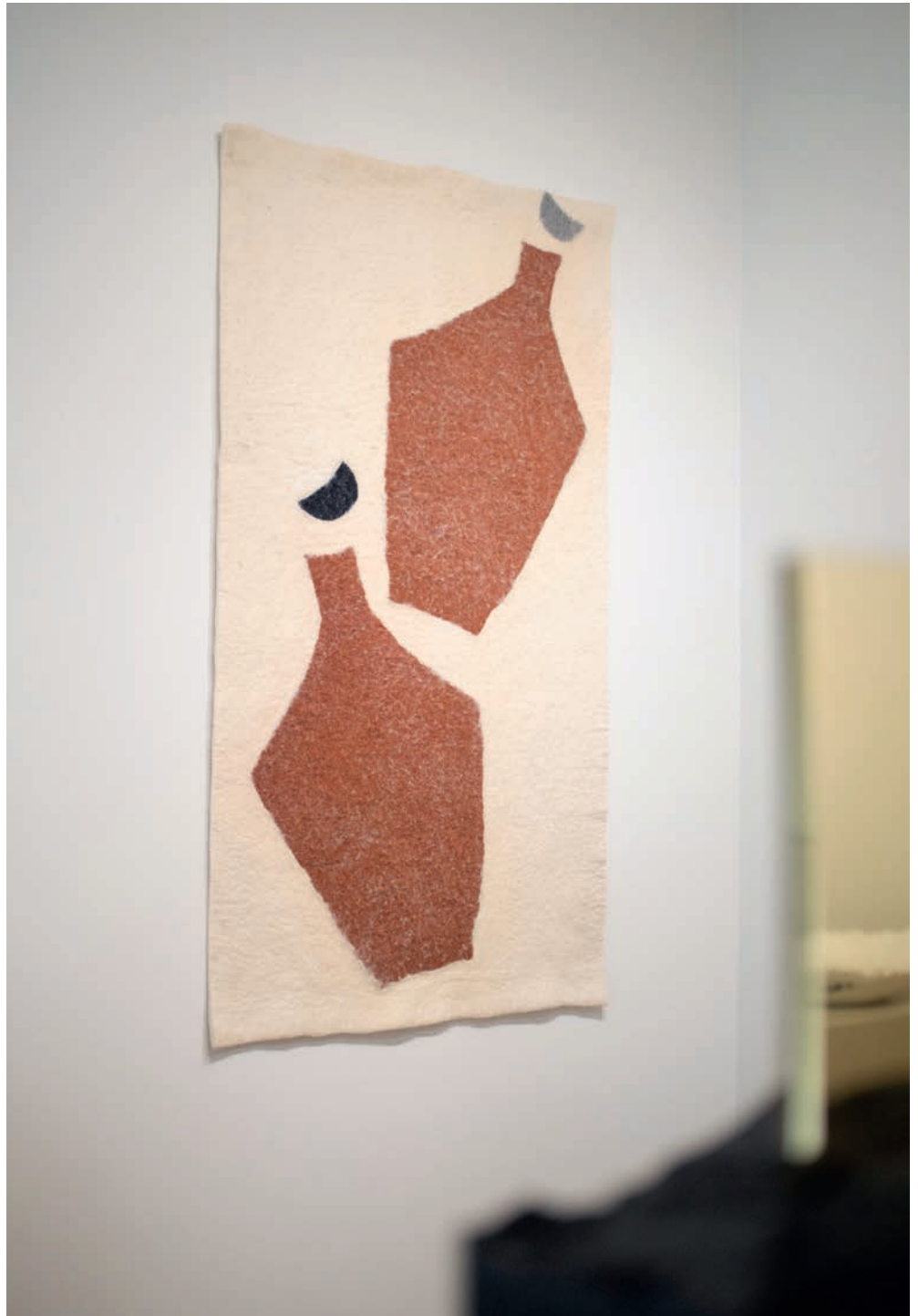




“We like to create bespoke designs and think of our projects in terms of the spaces. Adapting to the scale of a house like Augusta’s or the gigantic dimensions of a hotel like the Mix feeds our creative process.”

AUDREY WERTHLE











“There’s a poetic connection to the sand and the sea, to the transparency of the snow. The texture of salt mixed with water takes me back to childhood. It’s a very contemplative relationship. Everyone sees something different in it, and that’s what I love about working with this material.”

ROXANE LAHIDJI

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“Despite its many virtues, undyed local wool is a forgotten treasure: the processing factories have gradually disappeared and sheep farmers are struggling to promote it.”

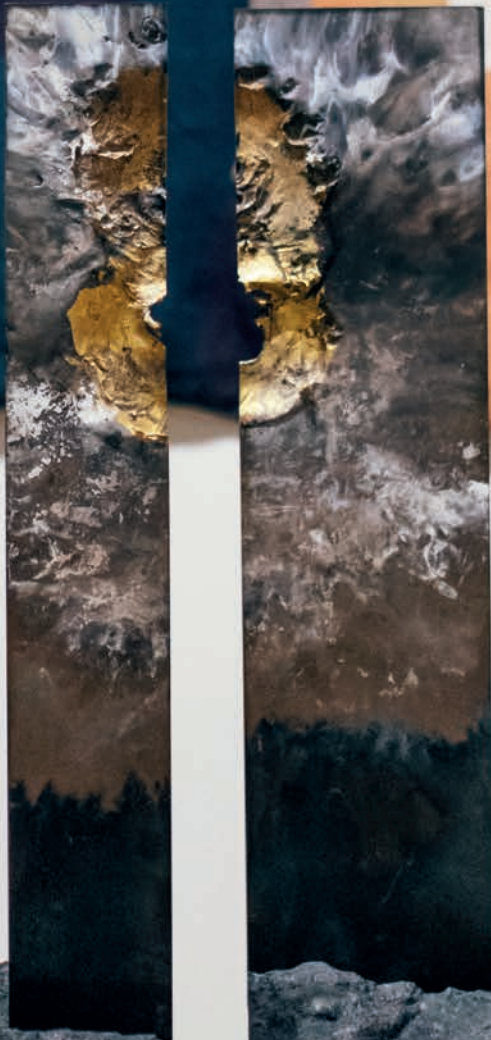
LOUISE RICHARD



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“Fire is not only our main tool. It also has a real creative role. We’ve learned to play with it, to predict its action but, even with experience, you never know exactly what to expect.”

DIDIER HENRY

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Specialising in sustainable design, Augusta gallery is exhibiting unique and innovative pieces created by designers using recycled or bio-sourced materials. Solo, duo and group exhibitions alternate to highlight the diversity and vibrancy of innovation in European design.

The renovation of 5 rue Coppens was also guided by the reuse of materials. The house in which Augusta is located has been completely renovated and fitted out by Ariane van Dievoet, using as many existing elements as possible and favouring natural materials. The aim is to make this space a place for reflection on sustainable design and to bring designers and the public together around this approach.

Augusta was founded by two sisters, Ariane and Lara van Dievoet. They named the gallery after their great-grandmother, Augusta Debled, who was an art gallerist in the 1920's.

Curator of the gallery, Ariane van Dievoet is a designer specialising in the repurposing of materials. She set up her design studio, AVANDI, in Brooklyn in 2014, before returning to Brussels in 2018. She has 10 years' experience in prototyping, eco-design and local production. Ariane teaches product design at CAD and is a board member at Micro Factory.

Lara van Dievoet is in charge of communications for Augusta. She is also a visiting professor at UCLouvain and the University of Lille where she teaches press relations and innovative web formats. Lara holds a Ph.D. in information and communication and was a freelance journalist specialised in entrepreneurship for 7 years.

Instagram : @augustagallery  
www.augustagallery.be



P11

**La GADOUE Atelier**

La Laita 1, 2023

*Textile wall piece*

Reclaimed linen and cotton

66 x 144 cm

P12

**La GADOUE Atelier**

Faouët, 2023

*Curtain*

Reclaimed linen and cotton

with natural dyes

340 x 300 cm (made to order)

P15

**Roxane Lahidji**

**& Clémentine Le Guérec**

Vase white, 2023

*Vase*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin, glass

13,5 x 13,5 x 30 cm

**Roxane Lahidji**

Eclipse S, 2020

*Pendant lamp*

Marbled Salts, glass chips, resin

18 x 18 x 20 cm

**Roxane Lahidji**

Meditation stool, 2021

*Stool*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin

39 x 39 x 17 cm

P16

**Roxane Lahidji**

Hana Table, 2023

*Side table*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin

46 x 46 x 60 cm

P19

**Louise Richard**

Punto di fuga, 2023

*Wall piece*

«MultiFelt» felt, wool

94 x 128 cm

P20

**Louise Richard**

Les Choses - II, 2023

*Wall piece*

«MultiFelt» felt, wool

66 x 88 cm

P23

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions3.3.4 #2, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (raw, polished),

reclaimed blue stone

39 x 20 x 76 cm

P24

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions1.2.4 #1, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (polished),

reclaimed blue stone

25 x 15 x 78 cm

P26

**La GADOUE Atelier**

Malmousque

*Textile wall piece*

Reclaimed linen and cotton

100 x 140 cm

P28

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions1.2.4 #2, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (polished),

reclaimed blue stone

48 x 9 x 24 cm

P29

**Louise Richard**

Lécythes, 2023

*Wall piece*

«MultiFelt» felt, wool

72 x 134 cm

PP30-31

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions3.3.4 #1, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (raw, polished),

reclaimed blue stone

74,5 x 15 x 40 cm

P32

**Roxane Lahidji**

Atmosphere S, 2020

*Table lamp*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin

18 x 18 x 20 cm

P34

**La GADOUE Atelier**

La Laita (2), 2023

*Textile wall piece*

Reclaimed linen and cotton

70 x 93 cm

P35

**Roxane Lahidji**

**& Clémentine Le Guérec**

Table centre, 2023

*Vessel*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin

35 x 35 x 11 cm

P36

**Roxane Lahidji**

**& Clémentine Le Guérec**

Vase black, 2023

*Vase*

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin, glass

13 x 13 x 32 cm

P37

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions1.2.3 #4, 2022

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (polished),  
reclaimed black marble

49 x 7 x 13,5 cm

P42

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions3.3.4 #2, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (raw, polished),  
reclaimed blue stone

39 x 20 x 76 cm

P39

**Louise Richard**

Kouros, 2023

Wall piece

«MultiFelt» felt, wool

79 x 121 cm

**La GADOUE Atelier**

Malmousque

Textile wall piece

Reclaimed linen and cotton

100 x 140 cm

P40

**Roxane Lahidji**

Atmosphere M, 2022

Table or floor lamp

Marbled Salts, pigments, resin

22 x 22 x 24 cm

P41

**Ariane van Dievoet & Didier Henry**

Fusions3.4.3 #1, 2023

*Sculpture*

Reclaimed brass (brushed, polished),  
reclaimed black marble

38 x 11 x 27 cm

## Credits

Curation by Ariane and Lara van Dievoet

Photography by Lindsay Zébier

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Logo by Camille Pirritano

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## Enquiries

Contact us to organise your event at the gallery.



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