

Press Release

Call to the Wild / L'appel de la nature

Exhibition at **Alvar Aalto designed Maison Louis Carré**, from 22nd of March to 7th of June 2020

Call to the Wild gathers three Finnish contemporary artists and designers at Maison Louis Carré, a unique building designed by **Alvar Aalto**, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. The exhibition presents a refined combination of contemporary sculptural works by the glass artist **Laura Laine**, the textile artist **Kustaa Saksi**, and the sculptor **Kim Simonsson**. While working with different materials, the artists have a common material approach, presenting works with a three-dimensional feel that perfectly fit with the characterizing organic, functionalist atmosphere of the Aalto-designed surroundings.

The iconic house is defined by the presence of natural light and its made-to-measure interior design – the fittings, furniture, lamps and textiles – by Alvar and Elissa Aalto and their collaborators in the late 1950s. ***Call to the Wild*** juxtaposes the artworks of the Finnish artists with the surroundings, becoming part of the interior and entering into a dialogue with the different rooms. This way, the exhibition not only becomes an encounter between the house and the selection of works, but also between two generations of Finnish design, combining the legacy of Aalto with contemporary artists who explore different styles, materials, and techniques. As when Maison Louis Carré was built in 1959, the exhibition becomes the fruit of a unique alliance between Finnish and French culture.

Built on a hill near Rambouillet forest, 40 km south-west of Paris, the building is a masterpiece in itself, boasting the distinctive characteristics of Aalto's design philosophy, acknowledging him as one of the masters of 20th century architecture. The house was built for the French art dealer and collector Louis Carré, and his wife Olga. Carré was a renowned art dealer in Paris, working with artists such as Henri Matisse, Juan Gris, and Fernand Léger. The house is now listed as "**Monument historique, Patrimoine du XX^e siècle**" (Historical Monument, Heritage of the XXth Century in France), and is the only house built by Aalto in France.

Call to the Wild is co-curated by **Lise Coirier** (Co-Founder of Spazio Nobile Gallery in Brussels) and **Kati Laakso** (Director of the Finnish Cultural Institute for the Benelux), in close collaboration with **Ásdís Ólafsdóttir** (Director of Maison Louis Carré), **Roger Nilsson** and **Alain Chiglien** (Co-Founders of Galerie NeC Nilsson et Chiglien Paris). The exhibition is supported by The Embassy of Finland in Paris.



PRACTICAL DETAILS:

Call to the Wild

Vernissage on Saturday, 21st of March, 12:00-15:00.

Shuttle available on reservation, leaving from Porte d'Auteuil in Paris at 11:00, return at 16:00

The exhibition runs from Sunday 22nd of March to Sunday 7th of June 2020. Maison Louis Carré is open during the weekends, from 14:00-18:00. Online advance booking is required. Visits during other times can be booked separately.

ADDRESS:

Maison Louis Carré, 2 chemin du Saint-Sacrement, F-78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne
maisonlouiscarre.fr/mlc/en/

ADDITIONAL INFO:

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with art direction and graphic design by Paris-based Finnish Design Studio Ahonen & Lamberg.

A selection of the work of Laura Laine and Kustaa Saksi will be shown at PAD Paris, Spazio Nobile Gallery, from the 31st of March through 5th of April 2020, Les Tuileries, Paris.

A selection of sculptures by Kim Simonsson will be shown at ART PARIS ART FAIR, Galerie NeC Nilsson et Chiglien Paris, between the 1st and the 5th of April 2020, Grand Palais, Paris.

FOR THE PRESS:

Press Preview on Friday, 20th of March 2020. Further information will follow.



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