



MOBILIER NATIONAL

# DANS UN NUAGE DE PIXELS

MIGUEL CHEVALIER  
A+A COOREN





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09 - 19  
SEPTEMBER 2021

MOBILIER NATIONAL - CHAPELLE DES GOBELINS  
42 AVENUE DES GOBELINS - PARIS 13<sup>E</sup>



MOBILIER NATIONAL

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## “DANS UN NUAGE DE PIXELS”

INSTALLATION BY MIGUEL  
CHEVALIER AND OF STUDIO A+A  
COOREN CHAPELLE DES GOBELINS,  
MOBILIER NATIONAL



*On the occasion of the Paris Design Week 2021, Mobilier National presents the installation “Dans un nuage de pixels” by Miguel Chevalier and A+A Cooren in the Gobelins chapel from September 9 to 19, 2021.*

“Dans un nuage de pixels” is one of the latest furniture projects developed by Mobilier National’s manufactories and workshops. Finalised in 2021, this artistic project is composed of a collection of furniture imagined by artist Miguel Chevalier and designers A+A Cooren (Aki and Arnaud).

### **A collection of furniture combining art and design**

- A rug made by the **Savonnerie manufactory**, with patterns of black, grey and white pixels. This sleek and graphic plastic alphabet includes seven colours of wool.
- A sofa and two chairs developed by the **Atelier de Recherche et de Création (ARC)** and upholstered by the **tapestry decoration workshop** and covered with a cotton fabric cover from Dedar, printed by the Prella company.
- A magnifying glass coffee table made by the Dacryl company in cooperation with the ARC. This tinted and polished poly methyl methacrylate table creates a magnifying glass effect that exalts the material and technique of the Savonnerie’s rug on which it is placed.

### **“Sitting down in a cloud of pixels”**

Through this project, the creators’ ambition is to create the opportunity to “sit down in a cloud of pixels”. The pattern of the rug and textile covering the furniture returns to the theme that is so dear to Miguel Chevalier, pioneering artist of virtual and digital art. These pixels are to him the “equivalent of the pictorial touch”, “the metaphorical image of the quantitative explosion of digital data which compels to find new ways to store the data, to see and analyse the world”. According to the creator, the pattern also echoes the writings and the many laws drafted by the institutions of the Republic where this collection of furniture shall be set.

The sober lines of the seats and table imagined by A+A Cooren echo their subtle and very fine design work. The collection is meant to be “as elementary as a pixel for it to disappear in favour of the pattern”. The round and soft shapes allow for optimal comfort, while the thin legs give the feeling of being suspended in a cloud above the Savonnerie.





## An artistic projection imagined by Miguel Chevalier

To accompany the presentation of the collection of furniture *Dans un nuage de pixels*, Miguel Chevalier has imagined a generative virtual reality installation projected on the ceiling of the Gobelins chapel.

In resonance with the work *Dans un nuage de pixels*, this creation is composed of thousands of black, white and variations of grey pixels, combined with more organic realms of cells. Nature hybridises with the artificial. This is a fusion of the cells, basic elements of life that compose matter, with pixels, basic elements of the digital and virtual “life”.

These cellular automata and micro-organisms multiply, proliferate, divide and fuse in a rhythm that is at times slow and at times rapid. New compositions constantly materialise with surprising material effects. The artistic projection is an exclusive visual experience. The shapes floating on the vault create impressive optical illusions.

This digital work exalts the collection of furniture and prolongs it into virtuality, all of it in a poetic atmosphere.

## The Gobelins chapel

The installation is presented in the Gobelins chapel, located in the cour Colbert within the historic Gobelins enclosure, in the 13<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris. Formerly the manufactory’s chapel (Saint-Louis chapel), the monument was built in 1723 for the Gobelins tapestry makers. Deconsecrated in the 1960s, it now hosts events organised by Mobilier National.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates: from 9 to 19 September, 2021

### Paris Design Week: from 9 to 18 September, 2021

Access via 42 avenue des Gobelins 75013 Paris

- From 9 to 17 September: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (latest access 5.30 p.m.). Ring the lodge’s bell. Departure every half hour.
- 18 September: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (latest access 6.30 p.m.)

### European Heritage Days: 18 and 19 September, 2021

Access via 42 avenue des Gobelins 75013 Paris

- Opening times: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (latest access 6.30 p.m.)

Free entry no reservation required.

Access to Mobilier National in accordance with the current sanitary requirements. Wearing a mask is mandatory.

## PRESS CONTACT

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## *Mobilier national*

As a supporter of crafts and creation since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Mobilier National's mission is to ensure the preservation and restoration of its unique collections, to perpetuate and pass down exceptional craftsmanship. As a major heritage site, the institution is also an important actor of contemporary creation and the promotion of French decorative arts.

Mobilier national owns a collection of tens of thousands of furniture pieces and objects meant to furnish and decorate the official buildings of the Republic in France and abroad. Three hundred craftsmen operate within Mobilier national in Paris and throughout France. The Gobelins and Beauvais manufactories are dedicated to tapestry, the Savonnerie manufactory to rugs, and the Puy-en-Velay and Alençon workshops to lace. Seven restoration workshops are in charge of various specialties of wood, metal and textile. Definitely forward-looking, the institution has a Research and creation workshop (Atelier de Recherche et de Création – the ARC) created in 1964 on the initiative of André Malraux in order to promote creation and contemporary design in France.

The ARC is an unrivalled showcase for design and endlessly creates, as ordered by the State, excellence prototypes in close collaboration with the best French designers.

### **The Research and creation workshop (ARC)**

Created in 1964 on the initiative of André Malraux, the Research and creation workshop (ARC) is in charge of producing furniture based on creators' drawings and models. Since its foundation, it has made – in collaboration with the great figures of international design – over six hundred pieces of furniture, all part of the national collections.

Today, the ARC is composed of twelve technicians divided into two workshops, wood and metal. They are trained in traditional techniques and open to new manufacturing processes, including the use of numerically controlled machines in order to adapt to the most contemporary techniques.

The ARC productions are meant to furnish the official institutions of the Republic. Unique or very small series pieces are created and frequently displayed in retrospectives and world fairs where the workshop's excellent craftsmanship is honoured, as will be the case from 8 to 19 September at the Gobelins chapel.

### **The decoration tapestry workshop**

The decoration tapestry workshop is in charge of the making or restoration and laying of curtains, bands, canopies, wall coverings and woven carpeting as well as their maintenance.

Combining tradition and modernity, it also works on modern furniture, including through the creation of contemporary garnitures in collaboration with the ARC (Research and creation workshop).

### **The Savonnerie manufactory**

Louis XIII developed the manufactory by settling the workshops on the banks of the Seine, at the foot of the Chaillot hill, in a former soap factory, hence the name Savonnerie (in French "savon" means "soap"). Since then, it has been designing the rugs made using the knotted stitch technique. The manufactory has been settled on the Gobelins site since 1826. A second workshop was opened in Lodève (Hérault department) in the 1960s. The workshops mainly interpret contemporary creators' cardboards: Zao Wou-Ki, Soulages, Alechinsky, Garouste and Bonetti, Louise Bourgeois, etc.





Website  
[www.miguel-chevalier.com](http://www.miguel-chevalier.com)

## *Miguel Chevalier*

Miguel Chevalier was born in 1959 in Mexico City (Mexico). He lives and works in Paris.

Miguel Chevalier graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 1981 and from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, in the design section, in 1983. He has received the Lavoisier grant for the Pratt Institute in New York in 1984 and was the prize-winner of the Villa Kujoyama in Kyoto, Japan, in 1994.

Since 1978, Miguel Chevalier has been using the information technology as a means of expression in the field of plastic arts. He has imposed himself on the international scene as one of the pioneers of virtual and digital art.

His experimental and multi-disciplinary work addresses the question of immateriality in art, as well as computer-induced logics, such as hybridisation, generativeness, interactivity, networking. He develops many themes, such as the relation between nature and artifice, the observation of the flows and networks that structure our contemporary societies, the world of architecture and virtual cities, the transposition of patterns from the Islamic art into the digital world. The images he presents constantly question our relation to the world. His works most often appear in the form of great digital installations projected on a large scale. He makes in-situ pieces which, through digital art, revisit the history and architecture of the places, thus providing a new reading. He also makes sculptures using 3D printing or laser cutting techniques, which materialise his virtual worlds.

Miguel Chevalier produces many exhibitions in museums, art centres and galleries throughout the world. He also carries out architectural projects in the public space. Miguel Chevalier's work nourishes a constant dialogue with the history of art, in a continuity and a metamorphosis of vocabulary, to explore and experiment a new pictorial language.



Website:  
[www.aplusacooren.com](http://www.aplusacooren.com)

## A+A Cooren

Aki, the daughter of Japanese jewellery designers, was born in Paris and grew up in Tokyo. After spending a year in the United States, she came back to Paris at the age of 18 to study interior design and products design at the École Camondo where she met Arnaud, who comes from the north of France. Arnaud has been interested in art since childhood; which has led him to study arts in Saint-Luc Tournai, Belgium, and at La Cambre in Brussels where he practiced contemporary art before moving to Paris.

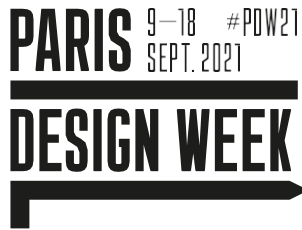
Since the creation of their A+A Cooren studio in 1999, Aki and Arnaud have worked for brands as varied as Shiseido, Artemide, ClassiCon, Vertigo Bird and Mobilier national on interior, products and furniture design projects as well as scenographies. They also create unique pieces for private customers and collaborate with architects on interior design projects.

Since 2019, the duo is represented by Carpenters Workshop Gallery. Their solo show 'Tiss-Tiss' took place last spring at the Carpenters Workshop Gallery in London. In Paris, their exhibition 'Flexible Rigidity' with Simone Prouvée is ongoing until mid-October.

Aki and Arnaud have won the prestigious award Prix Liliane Bettencourt pour L'Intelligence de la Main – Dialogue – with founder David Gourcuff in 2017. They also benefited from a Villa Médicis Hors les Murs artist's residency in 2007 and spent several months in Denmark working on "natural and artificial light".

Through their minimal and simple aesthetics, the French-Japanese couple is looking to integrate subtle references to nature in the interiors and daily objects they create. Design for them is mostly about the context and the act of sharing: sharing ideas, sharing with people from companies and mostly, sharing with the users. They see design as everything around us, whether it was hand-crafted or industrially produced, contributing to the creation of new ideas in harmony with their industrial, temporal and economic contexts. These reflections create harmonies which, like nature, constantly evolve and progressively plunge the user into the present.





## *Paris Design Week*

Created in 2010 by Maison&Objet, Paris Design Week aims to bring the city to life every year in September and to raise public and private interest in the innovations and reflections carried out by the world of design, decoration and lifestyle.

Organised simultaneously with the Maison&Objet fair, as a journey of discoveries and encounters within showrooms, stores, galleries as well as institutions such as museums or schools, Paris Design Week is the gathering of all design actors. With a focus on emerging talents, Paris Design Week aims to serve as a springboard for startups by giving them the opportunity to show their work in a unique setting, with the City as background.

Paris Design Week is also the occasion for families, design lovers and design curious to see Paris in a different light, with the temporary installations in the City's cultural places, made by designers and open to all for free. With exhibitions opening nights and talks, Paris Design Week places conviviality and exchange at its heart to gather professionals and the general public, at the crossroads of business and culture, which is the very essence of design. Follow Paris Design Week on the social networks.



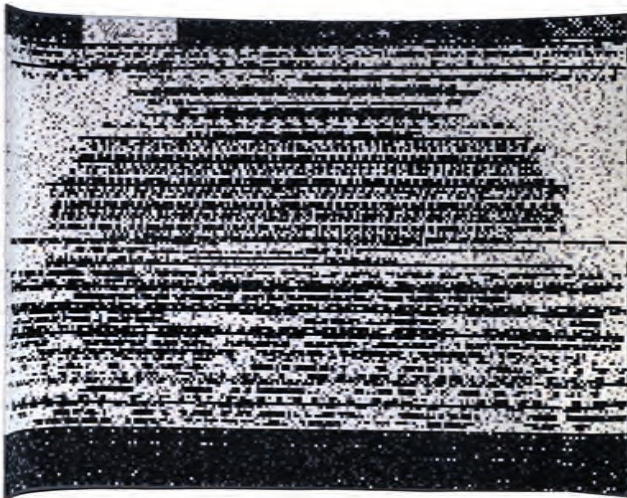
### *Sofas and chairs, 2021*

Wooden structure, cotton fabric cover by the Dedar company, printed by Prella Atelier de Recherche et de Création and Atelier de tapisserie décor et contemporain



### *Tinted and polished poly methyl methacrylate (PMMA) magnifying glass coffee table, 2020*

Dacryl company in collaboration with the Atelier de Recherche et de Création



### *Seven colours wool rug, 2020*

Savonnerie Manufactory  
3,20x4,48m