

Innovation beyond space & time

Collaboration between Japanese craftsmen & European Designers



A new Parisian gallery, nestled in the heart of the Marais, Atelier Blancs Manteaux (ABM) presents the ABM Academy program. The aim: To link Japanese craftsmanship and European design to promote ancestral Japanese expertise and to create innovative items suited to the Western market. Four projects from this program will be presented from January 21 'til February 6 2016 at Atelier Blancs Manteaux.

This exhibition includes 59 Japanese artisans and 20 European designers. The designers, most of whom are French, visited Japan to observe, discuss and work with the artisans there, in accordance with their technical knowledge and expertise. The results of their collaboration include a variety of categories: tableware, lighting, furniture and fashion accessories.

With the support of various governmental organisations (METI, SME Support, Kyoto Prefecture, the City of Kyoto), this exhibition is of particular importance for Japanese craftsmanship, which is in decline. In 20 years, the number of businesses linked to craftsmanship has tumbled from 30,000 to 15,000 and the number of artisans has fallen from 250,000 to 90,000, a loss which is not only financial but also cultural. The Japanese government is therefore trying to safeguard and promote this heritage worldwide.

ATELIER BLANCS MANTEAUX

38 rue des Blancs Manteaux
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Vernissage
Saturday, January 23 2016, from 6.30pm

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Atelier Blancs Manteaux (ABM)

Located in the heart of the Marais, Atelier Blancs Manteaux (ABM) is a new space in Paris where clients can discover and buy authentic Japanese objects which combine expertise and quality. With numerous exhibitions throughout the year, the Atelier presents you with a range of innovative traditional handicrafts. Expect to see sober, ergonomic and original designs.

Led by Mineaki Saito, Atelier Blancs Manteaux was founded by EXA Partners (consulting company, Paris), TCI Laboratory (laboratory for research and development of handicrafts, Kyoto) and Maruwakaya (artisanal consulting and creation, Tokyo).

ABM Academy's projects:



KYOTO CONTEMPORARY

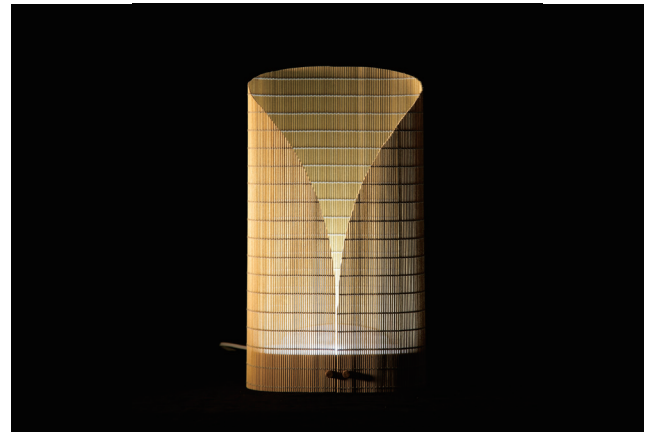
Launched in 2014, the Contemporary Kyoto project, supported by the cities of Kyoto and Paris, brings together art professionals from Kyoto and designers in the Ateliers de Paris' network for eight-month collaborations which aim to create decorative objects or fashion accessories for the European market. The works produced as part of this program will also be presented at Ateliers de Paris from January 7 'til January 19 2016.



NEO DENSAN

Neo Densan is a continuation of the projects which are part of the Contemporary Kyoto program. With the help of METI Kansai (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in the Kansai region), this program offers support to Japanese artisan and French designer pairs with the design of their art.

ATELIER
BLANCS MANTEAUX



CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE DESIGN

The Contemporary Japanese Design program, supported by SME Support Japan, encourages international collaborations between manufacturers and artisans from all over Japan and French and German designers. Through shared experiences and expertise, all whilst making new friends, this program has produced unique and innovative projects which were presented in February 2015 at the Frankfurt Ambiente and early this year in France, for the first time!



WHEN TRADITION MEETS MODERNITY...:

This project presents the work of 10 artisans from Kyoto who want to promote their traditional technical knowledge, passed down from generation to generation. Through their art, they have transformed real objects into modern designer pieces. This project is financed and sponsored by Kyoto Prefecture.

Atelier Blancs Manteaux brings together all these projects to ensure their visibility in Paris. The chairman of ABM is Mineaki Saito, the former Deputy Director General of the Hermès group. The ABM Academy program is led by Kotaro Nishibori, one of the founders of ABM. Born into a family of traditional umbrella (wagasa) makers in Kyoto, he had the idea of adapting this expertise to lighting and now puts his ingenuity to use in the service of Japanese craftsmanship.

You can meet the French designers and Japanese artisans who are part of this project, along with Mr Saito and Mr Nishibori at a viewing which will take place on: Saturday, January 23 2016, from 6.30pm at Atelier Blancs Manteaux, 38 rue des Blancs Manteaux, 75004, Paris