

## France *Parcours des Mondes, 6-11 September 2016*

# A whole world on the Left Bank

*Annual tribal trail in Saint Germain quarter celebrates 15th year with expanding global reach*

Report by Anne Crane

*PARCOURS des Mondes*, Paris' annual tribal trail, celebrates its 15th staging this year with a stronger global focus.

It takes place from September 6-11, which means it overlaps with the opening of the *Biennale*. Several participants in this gallery-based open house of tribal art specialists will also be showing at the *Biennale*.

However, the hope is that visitors make the journey between the Grand Palais on the Right Bank to the handful of old narrow Left Bank streets in the Saint Germain quarter where the tribal trail is concentrated.

In total more than 80 dealers from Europe, the US and Australia will be setting out their shows for the *PDM* in the network of intersecting streets: rues Bonaparte, des Beaux Arts, de Seine, Jacques Callot, Mazarine, Guénégaud, de L'Echaudé, St Benoît and Visconti. Last year *PDM* beefed up its scope by adding an Asian art element to the trail.

African art is still the biggest section, with 41 participant dealers. But now, as well as North and South American, Oceanic and Australasian material, 19 Asian galleries are bringing works such as Buddhist and Himalayan sculpture, early Chinese pottery and Edo screens.

Moreover, of the eight new exhibitors joining this year, half are in the Asian category.

The *PDM* exhibitors will bring

new acquisitions in their chosen fields and just under 30 of the dealers will also be presenting specialist themed shows.

These cover such diverse areas as archaic sculpture (Martin Doustar, Brussels), Dayak amulets from Borneo (Bruce Frank Primitive Art, New York) and Bakhongo art from sub-Saharan Africa (Galerie Abla and Martin Lecomte, Paris).

Bringing the story right up to date, paintings, sculpture and performance by Contemporary artist Eddy Kete Mombesa from Kinshasha are offered by Galerie Frédéric Moisan, Paris.

Over the 15 years it has been established, *PDM* has grown into one of the premier tribal fairs in the world with an international roster of visitors. A retrospective show organised by *Tribal Art Magazine* will trace its history from 2001 via photographs and artwork.

The show will be held in Espace Tribal on the rue Visconti, a central gathering place where all who are visiting or showing at this six-day tribal fest can call in to catch up on what is happening in the area. ■

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## Max Rutherford

Japanese dealer Max Rutherford, based in St James's in London, is doing the *PDM* for the first time this year.

"I am friends with Mingei Japanese Arts [their gallery on Rue Visconti is in the heart of the Parcours district]. They are taking part in the *Biennale*, so they offered me the front part of their gallery," says Rutherford.

He is also one of those taking advantage of *PDM*'s Asian element: because the event now has an expanding Asian presence, Rutherford believed it a good idea to take part.

He is a netsuke specialist so he will be taking a selection of these small carvings which are, as he points out, easy to transport.

But as a display of netsuke only would be, he concedes, "a bit dull", he will be adding some other Japanese artefacts such as inro and small items of lacquerware.

The overall price range is €500-30,000, with a large selection of netsuke in the €2000-6000 bracket.



Above: Max Rutherford.

Left: this large 4¾in (12cm) high carved ivory netsuke of a Mongol archer dates from c.1820-50 and is priced at €12,500.



Photo: Scott McCue

## Dimondstein

Dimondstein Tribal Arts from Los Angeles will be showing a selection of masks from the African continent at Galerie Mazarine on the rue Mazarine.

They will include this Bushcow mask made by the Bamum peoples of north-west Cameroon.

The 2ft 9in (86cm) long carving dates from the early 20th century and is priced at €12,000.



## Donald Ellis

Donald Ellis from New York is making his latest appearance at *PDM* with a show of American Indian arts at Galerie Marie Hélène de La Forest Divine on the rue des Beaux Arts.

It will include this 4ft 7in x 2ft 7in (1.4m x 80cm) model tipi above, made from painted buffalo hide which comes from the Cheyenne on the central Plains. It is priced at €130,000

Photo by John Bigelow Taylor



Photo: Hughes Dubois

### Yann Ferrandin

Yann Ferrandin's thematic exhibition, to be staged in his gallery on the rue de Seine, is called simply *Hair*. But the one-word title belies a rich and varied assortment of artefacts devoted to hair ornaments from around the world.

Around 100 hair accessories for both sexes feature in this exhibition. They are made from wood, ivory, tortoiseshell, bone and metal, some of them elaborately carved or applied with decoration. Like so many personal accoutrements in tribal society, this lifts them above the functional, underscoring the significance and status of both the owner and their coiffure.

"It took me more than 10 years to gather this selection of combs and hairpins from Africa, Melanesia, Polynesia and Asia," says Ferrandin of his show. "I bought only the best examples I could find in each field, one by one, from different sources, especially from old collections in Europe, America and for two of the hairpins, in Japan. Some have been published already."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue and the price range will start at €1000 and go up to €100,000.

Ferrandin is a longstanding participant in PDM, having shown at eight or nine previous editions. "It is by far the best event on tribal art and every collector interested in this field now regularly comes to look... and buy of course," he says.

Like a number of the French trade, Ferrandin is also participating at the *Biennale des Antiquaires* this year. "It has a totally different atmosphere. I think the two events are complementary and that they will bring more 'tribal' people to Paris."



**Left:** four 19th century combs from the Tongan islands made from coconut palm fibres and beads and ranging in size from 7¼ to 16½in (18.5 to 42.5cm) will feature at Yuan Ferrandin's (**above**) show.

The combs or *helu* are made by women and used to maintain the superb coiffures of the Tongan men and to indicate their social status.

### Michel Thieme

Amsterdam dealer **Michel Thieme** always makes a point of bringing interesting researched pieces with a traceable provenance to this event.

Among the attractions this year will be these two Korwar or Ancestor figures from Papua New Guinea (**below left**).

Thieme describes them as "two deposed gentlemen", a reference to the Papuan traditional practice of 'consulting' the carvings before making important decisions. If the Korwar's 'advice' turns out to be ill-founded, then the Korwar is stripped of its powers and abandoned.

Thanks to their provenance, Thieme has been able to trace the history of these two pieces which were offered to him in late 2015. They were acquired by Arnold Werumeus Buning in 1868 on the island of Mioswaar when voyaging as a naval officer on board the *Surinam*, and were bartered in exchange for two empty bottles. Buning detailed the find in his extensive correspondence to his father.

In 1884, Buning became the first director of the Museum of Ethnology in Rotterdam. These figures remained in his family and were given by Buning's son to a family friend, Mr EC Bloasma, from whom Thieme acquired them.

The duo is priced at **€85,000**.



Photo: Michel Guelfickel



### Laurent Dodier

Around 40 examples of pre-Columbian stone carving will make up **Laurent Dodier's** themed exhibition *Messengers of Stone*.

Dodier, from Avranches in northern France, will be showing at Galerie Michel Giraud on the rue de Seine during PDM. He has produced a series of themed shows for PDM over the past five years, including one on weaponry last year. This latest foray takes the visitor on a journey through pre-Columbian America that starts in Peru and continues along the length of Central America to Mexico.

This 21in (55cm) high pink coloured basalt Aztec carving of a Maize Goddess from Mexico, **left**, which dates from c.1300-1521, will be one of the pieces for sale. It is priced at **€65,000**.

### Joint show

Among the dealers taking advantage of PDM's expanding Asian element are four specialists in Asian art who are combining forces to present a joint show.

**Christophe Hioco, Eric Pouillet, Alexis Renard and Kapoor Galleries** will be at Galerie Etienne de Caussans on the Rue de Seine where they will offer a mix of sculpture, ceramics and paintings from China, India and the Himalayas.

This Gandaran schist head of a Bodhisatva by Afghanistan or Pakistan, **right**, will be shown by Hioco. It dates from the 3rd or 4th century and is priced at **around €38,000**.



Photo: DR