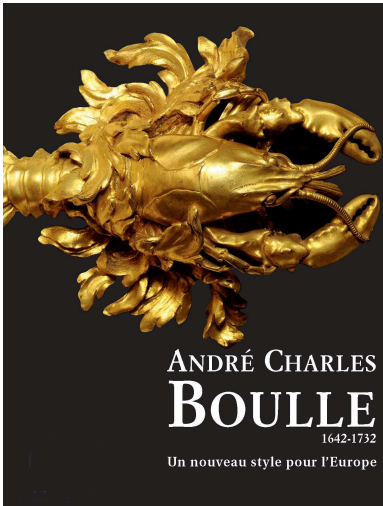


**From October 30, 2009 to January 31, 2010 :**

**« ANDRÉ CHARLES BOULLE  
AND THE ART OF HIS TIME,  
A NEW STYLE FOR EUROPE »**

**will take up quarters in the Museum of Decorative Arts  
in Frankfurt**



« *André Charles BOULLE, (1642 1732), A new Style for Europe* » is the first retrospective ever to be devoted to the illustrious cabinetmaker to King Louis XIV born in 1642 and deceased in 1732. From 30 October 2009 to 31 January 2010, the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt will pay him homage by welcoming this exhibition which illustrates how the artist influenced the advent of a European aesthetics. Initiated and entirely conceived by the renowned art historians Jean-Dominique Augarde and Jean Nérée Ronfort, it is actively supported by Professor Ulrich Schneider,

Director of the Museum. This retrospective, achieved in partnership with the Mobilier National, is placed under the High Patronage of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, and of the President of the German Federal Republic, Professor Dr. Horst Köhler.

**André Charles Boulle, a name engraved in the history of Decorative Arts**

Even before he was 30 years old, the name of **André Charles Boulle**), *Cabinetmaker, Founder, Chaser, Gilder, Sculptor and Marqueter Ordinary to the King*, was famous throughout Europe. Louis XIV recognized his talent in 1672 by granting him a workshop inside the Louvre palace. Thus he worked for the Sun King, the Queen and the Grand Dauphin, and for the princes of the royal family. The most eminent financiers of the kingdom vied for his works to furnish their mansions on the Place Vendôme. The Princes Electors of Saxony, Bavaria and Cologne, the King of Spain were among his clients. Since then, his creations have never ceased to symbolise financial and social success. **Having worked in the capital of luxury and "art de vivre", André Charles Boulle significantly influenced the elaboration of the « grand goût », a specific style whose radiance spread widely across borders.**

His totally innovative genius in the **concept of forms** is paired with an unheard of **virtuosity in the use of gilt bronze, which he was the first to unite with his marquetry**. His furniture and bronze objects were the absolute summit of elegance, combining extraordinary forms with materials verging on the precious, with an excellence of execution never again equalled since. That is why they are considered today by connoisseurs as exceptional pieces, displayed as such in the greatest museums worldwide, and capable of attaining record prices in auctions.

## An unprecedented retrospective, to discover in the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt

The Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt, traditionally reputed for its exhibitions in the field of Decorative Arts, counts among its collections a table in marquetry and brass, tortoiseshell and tinted horn, executed by Bernard I<sup>st</sup> Van Risamburgh, a contemporary of Boullé's. This table thus naturally finds its place in the exhibition.

For this event some one hundred exceptional pieces, furniture, bronzes, chandeliers, clocks, rugs, tapestries, paintings, joined by numerous preparatory drawings were selected by Jean Nérée Ronfort, author of the catalogue raisonné of the works of André Charles Boullé, and Jean-Dominique Augarde, in close collaboration with Professor Ulrich Schneider, Director of the MAKF. These objects reflect André Charles Boullé's remarkable talent, and while the exhibition restores de historical and artistic context in which he worked, it highlights the extraordinary momentum he gave towards the development of a new style in Europe and the influence he had not only on his contemporaries but also as far into the future as on the creators of design in the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries

## A series of revelations made possible by two uncommon historians Messrs Ronfort and Augarde

The exhibition is a series of revelations. Renowned historians and experts, corresponding with the greatest institutions, **Messrs Ronfort and Augarde** have lent to the exhibition the extraordinary wealth of their archives and their photo library, without which nothing would have been possible. "*André Charles Boullé, 1642-1732, A new Style for Europe*" thus reveals at each instant of its circuit the fruit of unprecedented research which **Jean Nérée Ronfort** has undertaken since numerous years on the artist and on his time. A new aesthetic consideration quite naturally finds its expression here, with the simultaneous participation of historical and scientific facts. This undertaking permits for the first time to show an surprising number of major pieces which had until now never left the countries in which they are conserved.



André Charles Boullé (1642-1732). Médaillier dit « de Jules Robert de Cotte ». 1723. Détail. Saint Petersburg, Musée de l'Ermitage.

Jean Nérée Ronfort has surrounded himself with a **scientific committee** including those who have also published on the subject, such as **Gillian Wilson**, Curator Emeritus of the Department of Decorative Arts of the **J. Paul Getty Museum**, **Tamara Rappé**, Curator of the Department of Occidental Arts of the **State Hermitage Museum** and **Peter Hughes**, Former Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts of the **Wallace Collection**.

The exhibition has counted heavily on the active support of the greatest international institutions, made possible thanks to the personal contacts of Messrs Ronfort and Augarde : the **State**

Hermitage Museum of Saint Petersburg, the Mobilier National, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Musée du Petit Palais in Paris, the Musée National du Château de Versailles et des Trianon, the Banque de France, the state collections of the Länder of Bavaria, Hessen and Prussia, the royal collections of Sweden, le Museum of Fine Arts de Boston are as many sanctuaries who have opened their doors for the greatest pleasure of art lovers and the public. In fact, some thirty international museums whose names bring to mind the treasures of Western civilisation, from seven countries (France, Germany, Great Britain, Slovenia, Sweden, Russia and the United States), but also some eminent private collectors, permit the coming together of many masterpieces never seen before, numerous even never photographed. The resulting image fascinates by its beauty of the materials and the forms, their absolute originality. In the history of great exhibitions such an ensemble has never before been united.

### A scenography signed Juan Pablo Molyneux

The building of the **Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt**, which hosts the exhibition is emblematic of the city of Frankfurt. Conceived by **Richard Meier** in 1985 its model was to influence the design of the J. Paul Getty Museum as well as all future creations by the architect.

In this building, bathed in light, the renowned Chilean architect, **Juan Pablo Molyneux**, will situate the exhibition, in this setting with the purpose of displaying the **blossoming, in Boullé's time, of a new aesthetics which was to become the European model for centuries to come**. With offices in New York and Paris, Molyneux has executed private commissions in South America, the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East. He also carried out projects for public institutions such as in Saint Petersburg or Paris. Another of Juan Pablo Molyneux' missions was the interior decoration of the Boeing 737, private jets or suites for the luxury liner « World of ResidenSea ». Among his numerous distinctions he has notably been named « *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* » in 2004. A fierce proponent of engaged classicism, he conceives inspired scenographies that find their origin in History, without however being simple reconstructions. « *I try to distil that which is expected in order to transform it into something unexpected* », he says.

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[www.angewandtekunst-frankfurt.de](http://www.angewandtekunst-frankfurt.de) / [www.acboulle.org](http://www.acboulle.org)

Press Conference : Tuesday 27 October 2009, 11 a.m.

Vernissage : Thursday 29 October 2009, 7 p.m.

Dates of the exhibition : 30 October 2009 > 31 January 2010

Entrance fee : 10 euros (reduced price : 5 euros)

Opening hours : 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) / 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Wednesdays

