

“I have always been afraid of ink and besides I wonder if it is not some drop from the river of the dead. It doesn't reflect the same thing to anyone. We hardly know where it comes from and we wonder where it's going to.

There's nothing more relaxing than to let it sleep in my cellars. The chapel of Villefranche-sur-mer. The mariage hall in Menton. There was the place where I would work with my hands.

There I did not need it. There my hands were the faithful labor force in the service of my heart.

With pottery it is even better.

You think only of achieving a good work and the author's pride doesn't exceed the baker's contentement when taking out good bread from the oven.

My friends the Madelines whom I work with, own this sort of small farm up the Villefranche mountain, where they assist and help me to model and decorate (tattoo would be more accurate) the clay.

Baked clay looking like young skin tanned by the sun.

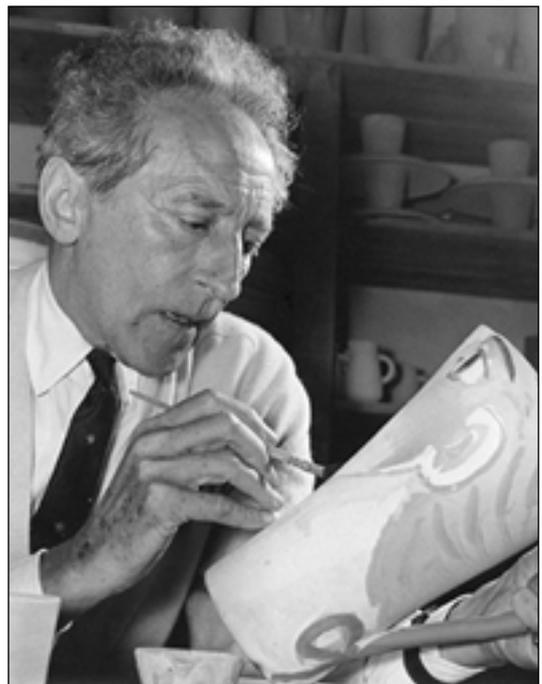
**Jean Cocteau**

Extracted from

*“Letters to my American friends”, 1958.*



Marie-Madeleine Jolly, Jean Cocteau, Philippe Madeline presenting one of their ceramics at the Villefranche exhibition in 1958.



Jean Cocteau at the Villefranche-sur-mer workshop.



### Les dioscures

White clay, black coating, shiny white enamel.  
Dish drawn by Jean Cocteau and made with the help of Marie-Madeleine Jolly and Philippe Madeline, 1958.

# ceramics pottery

## Places of exhibitions



Grand chèvre-cou, 1958  
Jean Cocteau, poem-object.

As he has just been awarded an honorary doctorate at the Oxford University, Jean Cocteau inaugurates in 1956 the Chapel of Saint-Peter which he has just decorated.

Throughout his life, the poet has kept on surprising by the diversity and richness of his work.

Writer of plays, essays, novels and collections of poems, he has written as much as he has drawn :

lithographs, engravings and frescoes... his graphic arts are well-known all over the world and his work is substantial.

On this very year, Jean Cocteau discovers a new unexplored path that arouses his curiosity : the pottery.

From the small baked clay objects on which his friend Picasso works, Jean Cocteau will learn the unveiled richness of this new material and from his meeting with the ceramist couple Madeline-Jolly at Villefranche-sur-mer, the ineffable happiness to discover a new means of expression. It is with the humility of an "artisan-ceramist" that he enters the workshop of the Madeline-Jolly, bringing with him, as always, the extraordinary richness of his mythological and dreamlike universe.

In his "Lettre aux amis d'Amérique" (letter to American friends) published in 1958, Cocteau will insist on the saving side of pottery, ceramics and the work in the workshop which remove him from the painful torments of writing, that he prefers to avoid from now on.

These are his hands "faithful labor force in the service of my mind and my heart" which are talking now.

And these ones will sketch, for the six years before his death in 1963, a long series of objects that will be confided to Marie-Madeleine Jolly.

Painted plates, decorated vases and enamelled dishes marked with the magic aura of Jean Cocteau and the artistic complicity that united the couple of ceramists and the poet will come from the Villefranche-sur-mer workshop.

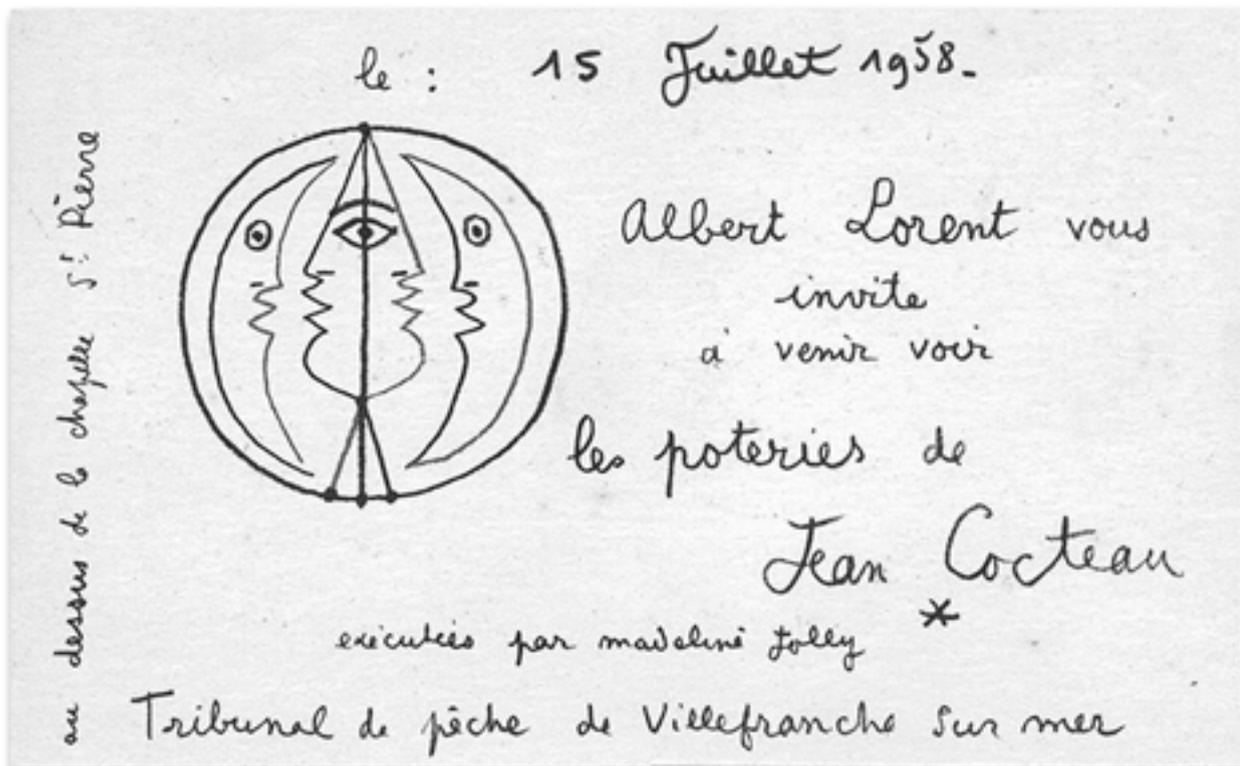
In her "Catalogue raisonné des céramiques de Jean Cocteau", Annie Guédras, as an expert of the graphic work of the artist, makes an inventory of more than a hundred models in numerous copies, and almost an even number of unique copies.

A huge, rich and colourful mosaïc which unveiled a new facet of Jean Cocteau's talents, graphic poet, protean artist, a stroke magician...



Marie-Madeleine Jolly, Philippe Madeline and Jean Cocteau coming out of the Villefranche-sur-mer workshop in March 1958.

• First exhibition of Jean Cocteau's pottery in Villefranche-sur-mer



"At first I will exhibit in Villefranche as one displays the carnations and tomatoes of one's garden at the market."  
 Jean Cocteau : answering a questionnaire from "La vie des métiers" (Life of jobs), 1958.



"Astrology"  
 1958  
 oval pendant.

"I have always held artisans in high regards, these aristocrats, and I'm glad to have become one of them. (...) The poet dare not look back for fear of being changed into a statue and always wonder what will happen to his written work. If he can express himself in another way and leave a manual work, he is assured to mark his passage with tangible signs. Pottery is a more reliable message than writing, and it is a wonderful vehicle for poetry..."

"The workshop of my friend the Madeline-Jolly is a trap, one of these havens where we feel protected from the tempests of the world and so far away from town fever that we wonder whether the healthy works we have achieved belong to the sick time we live in. I got lost in there..."

Jean Cocteau : answering a questionnaire from "La vie des métiers", 1958.

• **First international exhibition**

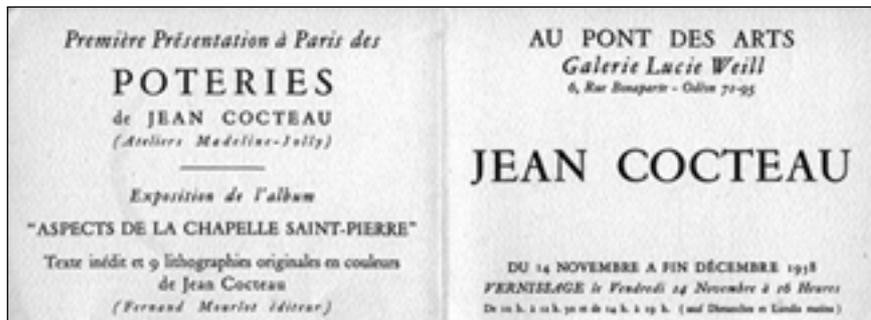
In 1958, for the first time, Jean Cocteau's ceramics are simultaneously exhibited at the Pont-des-Arts Lucie Weil gallery in Paris and at the Johnson gallery in Chicago.

The invitation card of the Johnson Gallery presents the exhibition as a world event.

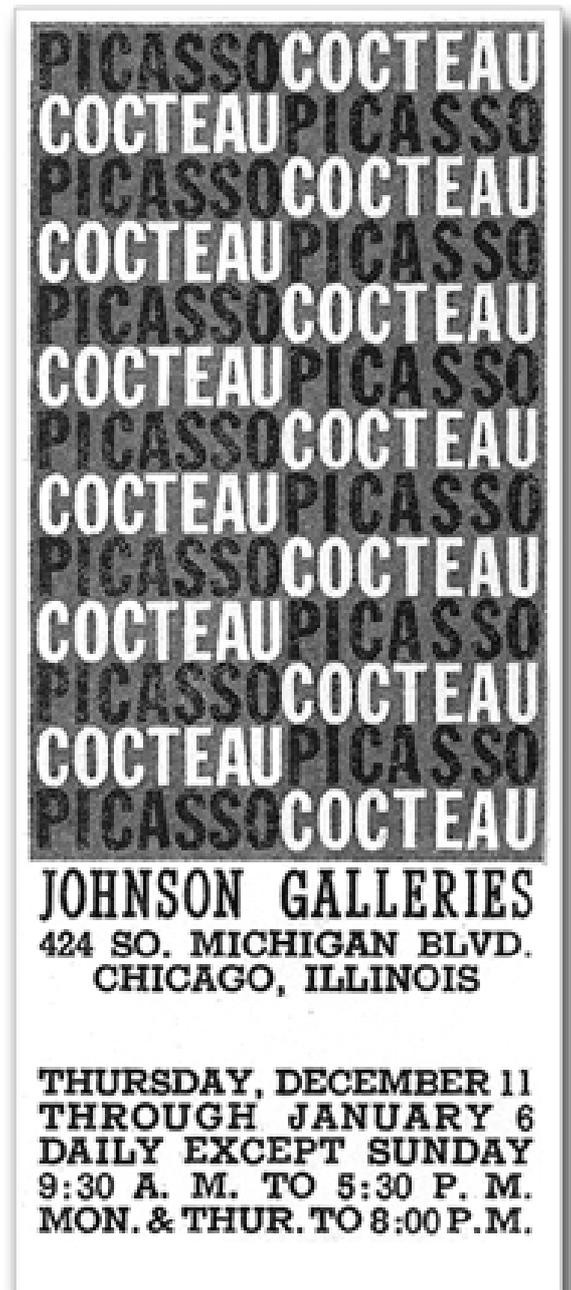
Indeed, both artists Pablo Picasso and Jean Cocteau present their ceramic work, a very limited edition for one them and a totally exclusive series for the other...



The Lucie Weil Gallery's invitation card in Paris



Back of the Lucie Weil Gallery's invitation card in Paris



Johnson Gallery's invitation card in Chicago



**Les Vestales**  
Jean Cocteau, 1958.  
Widened vase (front)

*"Pottery has saved my life!  
That spared me the use of ink which is too  
dangerous since all that we write is  
systematically distorted by  
those who read it."*

Jean Cocteau, interview 1958.



**Les vestales**  
Jean Cocteau 1958  
Widened vase (back).

• Places of exhibitions



• Exhibition stamped, once again, by the seal of duality present in the whole work of the poet.

The Laurent Teillet gallery presents a retrospective to celebrate the centenary of Jean Cocteau's birth and proposes a book on this occasion.

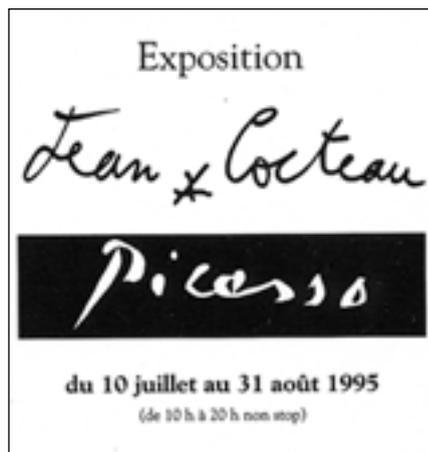
"Le catalogue raisonné des céramiques de Jean Cocteau" written by Annie Guédras, an expert of Jean Cocteau's graphic art, curator of the Milly-la-forêt museum and commissioner of exhibitions, makes a very precise inventory of all ceramics and pieces of pottery made by the artist between 1957 and 1963, at the Madeline-Jolly workshop in Villefranche-sur-mer.



Laurent Teillet Gallery's invitation card.



Phébus Gallery's invitation card in Vals-les-bains.



Exhibition dedicated to Eouard Dermit, Jean Cocteau's adopted son deceased during the year. Both artists, Jean Cocteau and Pablo Picasso, whose paths had crossed each other through common arts, are together one more time.

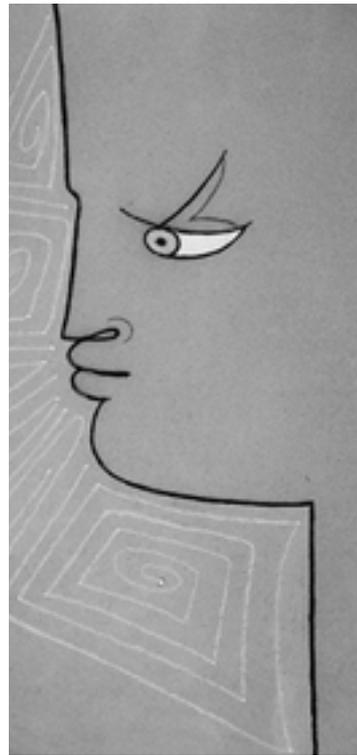
"Vals-les-bains exhibition gathers together a hundred works of art of Cocteau and Picasso : drawings, lithographs, ceramics, jewels, bronzes and poems..."

**La tribune**  
 August 1995.

*Jean Cocteau's ceramics are characterized by their spared decorations based on graphics. Black coatings, oxydes pencils and polychrome enamels are used sparingly, out of the greatest respect for baked clay, their function being to show it off, trying to enchant it.*

**Pierre Chanel.**

"Le petit journal" published on the occasion of the exhibition of Jean Cocteau's ceramics at the Lunéville castle museum. September, 30th 1996.



"But there is charm and charm. Using charm in the medieval sense of the word, without depriving it of its strength, that is the problem I 'm trying to solve-whether I write a poem or create a vase."

**Jean Cocteau**

Text written on the occasion of a ceramics exhibition at the Johnson Gallery in Chicago in 1958. Quoted by "le petit journal". Lunéville castle museum.1996.

**Jean Cocteau**



Visage, 1968

**Pablo Picasso**



Vase femme, 1954

• **Museum Road Reading,  
Pennsylvania U.S.A  
Artist's ceramics  
of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

From september, 11th to november, 14th 1999, the museum proposes a retrospective of the important ceramists of the century. Jean Cocteau's ceramics and pieces of pottery are exhibited beside the great names of the 20th century : Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Fernand Léger, Juan Miro, Marc Chagall, Maurice de Vlammick, Karel Appel, Asger Jorn...

Main exhibitions  
of the ceramic work  
between 1958 and 1990...

1958

- July : **Tribunal de pêche**/ Villefranche-sur-mer
  - August : **Galerie de Francony**/ Nice
- September : **Château de Nervieux**/ Nervieux
- November-december : **Au pont des arts**/ Paris  
**Johnson Galerie**/ Chicago U.S.A

1959

- February : **Galerie Faure**/ Bordeaux
- April : **Galerie Le gall**/ Perros-Guirec
  - December : **Dardenne**/ Lille

1960

- March : **Galerie Garance**/ Lille
- October : **Gds Magasins AU BON MARCHÉ**/ Brussels Belgique
  - October : **Salon d'Automne**/ Paris
  - November : **Christofle**/ Paris
- November-december : **Musée des beaux-arts**/ Nancy
  - December : **Salon des ateliers d'art**/ Paris

1961

- January : **Expo de la Manufacture Les Nilles Sèvres**/ Kyoto Japon
- March : **Expo Ministère de l'industrie Française**/ Florence Italie
  - May : **Journal "La liberté de Morbihan"**/ Lorient
- Summer : **Expo Française (affaires étrangères)**/ Moscow U.R.S.S

1962

- April : **Galerie Berges**/ Flers
- June : **Galerie au bois dormant**/ Compiègne

1963

- August : **Kuniko - Tsutsumi**/ Tokyo Japon
- November : **Galerie Parti pris**/ Grenoble

1964

- May-june : **Musée des arts**/ Nantes

1965

- March-may : **Musée Jacquemard André**/ Paris

1966

- March-april : **Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe**/ Hamburg R.F.A
  - April : **Musée Jean Cocteau**/ Menton
  - June-july : **Hall Usine Siemens**/ Munich
- July-august : **Akademie des Kunste**/ Berlin-Ouest R.F.A

1969

- August : **Galerie Fargette**/ St Paul de vence

1970

- May : **Maison de l'O.R.T.F**/ Paris
- July : **Galerie Haas**/ Vaduz/ Liechtenstein
- July-august : **Château De Sainte-Suzanne**/ Ste Suzanne
- October : **Galerie Gabriel Lucas**/ Montréal Canada

1971

- June-july : **Galerie Verrière**/ Paris
- June-july : **Galerie Jean-Michel Farges**/ Clermond-ferrant
  - October : **Galerie Verrière**/ Lyon

1973

- February : **Galerie Proscenium**/ Paris
- April : **Galerie Arthur L. Feldman**/ Cleveland U.S.A
  - October : **Au pont des arts**/ Paris

1974

- August : **La grange à Camille**/ Niort

1975

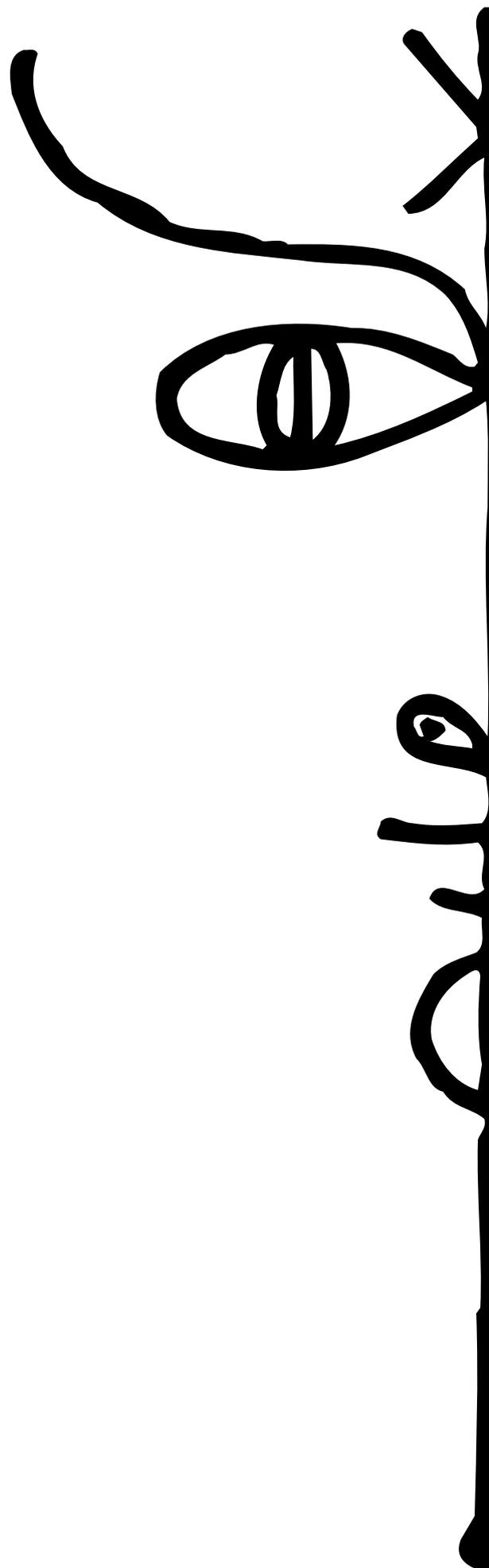
- March : **Journal MAINICHI**/ Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe Japon
  - April : **Galerie la Concorde**/ Hardelot
- October : **Abbaye de Dom Pérignon**/ Hautvilliers
  - December : **Au pont des arts**/ Paris

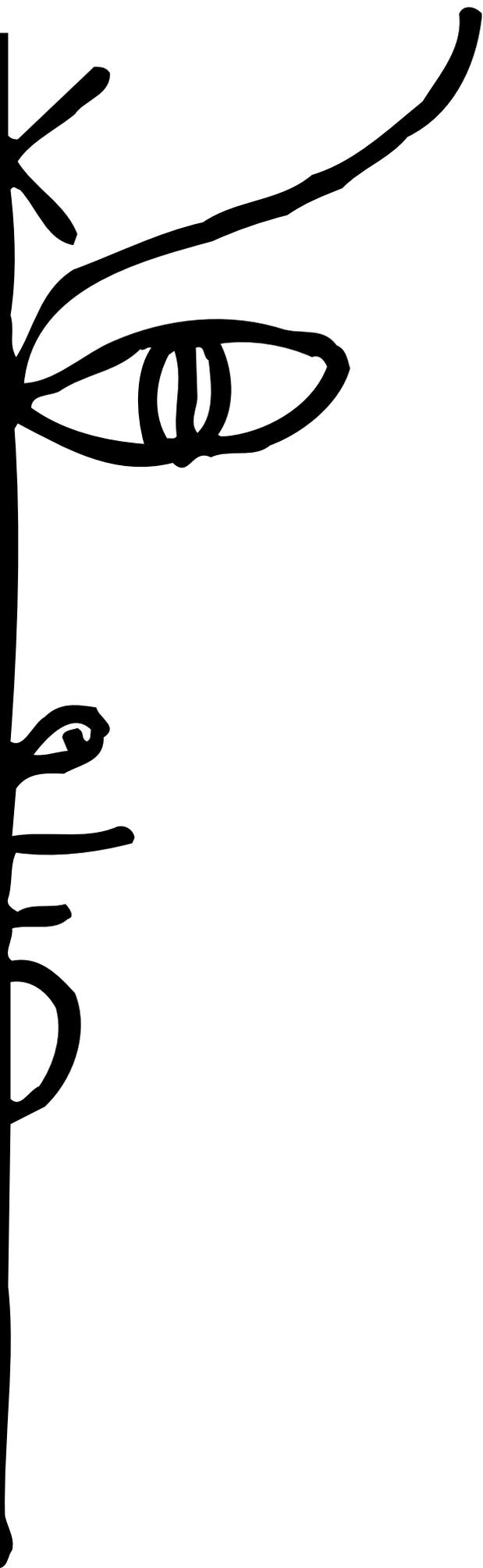
1976

- April : **Le petit st Vincent**/ Laon
- June-july : **Musée de la Baule**/ La Baule

1977

- March : **Palais Rihour** (off. du tourisme)/ Lille
  - May : **Château de Sedan**/ Sedan
- August : **Château de la Touche**/ La Touche





1978

- May : **Galerie Orphée/** Paris
- July-august : **Galerie st Cézaire/** Nyons
- October-november : **Galerie la Garinie/** Reims

1979

- March : **Maison Barnave/** st Egrève
- April-may : **Galerie Jean-Marie Cupillard/** Grenoble
- April-june : **Galerie 3 ormeaux/** Aix en Provence
- June : **Musée Municipal/** Rochefort s/ mer
- July-september : **Art-nouveau Galerie/** Menton
- July-september : **Salon de l'île de Ré/** La flotte en Ré
- September-october : **La Part-dieu/** Lyon
- December : **Galerie Jacques Royan/** Lyon
- December : **Galerie Jacques Thomann/** Villefranche s/ Saone

1980

- March : **Kreissparkasse/** Ludwigsburg R.F.A
- May : **Galerie Lutecia/** Frankfurt R.F.A
- December : **L'atelier Jacques Royan/** Lyon

1981

- April : **Galerie Vieilleville/** Cannes
- April : **Château de Loches/** Loches
- May : **Art-nouveau Galerie/** Menton
- June : **Espace Auditorium/** Lyon
- July : **Galerie F.D Roosevelt/** Toulon
- Été : **Galerie raymond Picaud/** Aususson
- August : **Palais de l'Europe/** Le Touquet
- September : **Cercle Fine Art Corporation/** Chicago U.S.A
- December : **Le Mas d'Artigny/** St Paul de Vence

1982

- September-october : **Galerie Duquesne/** Castillon du Gard
- October : **Galerie de l'Épée/** Quimper

1983

- June : **Galerie Jean-Claude Fert/** Yvoire
- August : **Vieux moulin d'Autrans/** Nyons
- October-november : **Bibliothèque Municipale/** Marseille
- November : **Les Arsenaux/** Marseille
- November-december : **Galerie Lucie Weill/** Paris
- November-december : **Galerie Duquesne/** Castillon du Gard

1984

- March-may : **Pavillon des Arts de la ville de Paris**
- April : **Musée d'Archéologie sous-marine La Clape/** Cap d'Agde
- June-july : **Galerie Dussaud/** Nimes
- July : **Galerie Pétrovic/** Aix-en-Provence
- August : **Musée d'art Moderne/** Cincinnati U.S.A
- November : **Maison de l'artisanat et des métiers d'arts/** Marseille

1985

- June-july : **Galerie Raymond Gangloff/** Mulhouse
- August-september : **Michel-andré/** Pont-aven
- July-october : **Galerie Wolfgang A.EBERWEIN/** Freiburg R.F.A
- November : **Mas d'Artigny/** St Paul de Vence
- December : **Galerie de l'encadreur/** Nancy

1986

- January : **Galerie de l'encadreur/** Nancy
- September : **Centre Méditerranéen/** Cap d'Ail
- " " : **Louis Shorentein/** New York U.S.A
- " " : **Donald Wohl/** Beverly Hills Los Angeles U.S.A

1987

- November : **Comedia (jean Marais)/** Aubagne

1988

- January-february : **Galerie Jacques Royan/** Lyon
- March-april : **Galeria San Carlo/** Milan
- June-september : **Musée de la ville/** Tours
- October : **Galerie Laurent Teillet/** Paris

1989

- January : **Galerie Gaudry/** Charmes s/ Rhône
- April : **Galerie Martin-bres/** Marseille
- April : **Galerie Hilton-Jaffré/** Paris

1990

- Février-mars : **Galerie Duquesne/** Castillon du Gard
- March : **Galerie Lowenthal/** Virginie/ U.S.A
- April : **Galerie Eberwein/** Freiburg/ R.F.A
- May : **Galerie L'intemporel/** Monte-Carlo

**I feel that Jean Cocteau has made life difficult for you ?**

(Marie-Madeleine Jolly)

*-Yes... Mr. Cocteau brought us engravings... and we had great difficulties since those substances were not adapted to our usual technique...*

**Did you have to carry out research ?**

(Marie-Madeleine Jolly)

*-We have done lots of research, Mr. Cocteau helped us a lot, his advice and opinions were invaluable...*

**Philippe Madeline, what are the main research you have been compelled to do in order to achieve such a diversity, not only in the clay but also in the colours? It goes, indeed, from white paste to pure clay through enamels...**

(Philippe Madeline)

*Mister Cocteau uses clay a lot, he is resolved to leave as much visible clay as possible and he expressed this idea very well by saying that he wanted enamel to be like a tattoo on the skin... and the red colour of the clay... we use these red and pink colours a lot in our regions... reminds him of the colour of the skin and he tries to tattoo it with drawings, which are magnificent... so this confronted us with the difficulties of creating clay that could fit... we managed to obtain clay grains that remind paper textures as well...*

**And on the other hand, you had to consider... the line?**

(Philippe Madeline)

*That was the big problem ! The thickness of the stroke, its purity... this is Marie-Madeleine Jolly we owe this to...*

**Can you explain us how you proceed once Jean Cocteau has given you a drawing or a print...?**

(Marie-Madeleine Jolly)

*Well, Mister Jean Cocteau comes and we make them together, which means that he supervises the work and actually he lends a hand most of the time...*

**How long did the work take to make all these pieces of pottery?**

(Jean Cocteau)

*I don't remember... but... here... indeed you need a close collaboration, I would say that you need the fire of friendship and the love of fire...*

**Transcription of a radio recording from July 1958.**

Jean Cocteau and his two ceramists, Philippe Madeline and Marie-Madeleine Jolly are interviewed at the time of their first exhibition in Villefranche-sur-Mer.



Jean Cocteau, Philippe Madeline, Marie-Madeleine Jolly on the port of Villefranche-sur-Mer. 1957.



**La Florentine**  
*Jean Cocteau, ceramic ornament.*

**ornaments**  
**poem-objects**  
**tapestries**  
**views of exhibitions**



**Le chantre,**  
*Jean Cocteau, poem-object.*

These jewellery and sculptures have been drawn by Jean Cocteau between 1957 and 1962 as he was reinventing pottery next to his friends Maire-Madeleine Jolly and Philippe Madeline in their workshop in Villefranche-sur-mer. Together they worked out a first collection - brought out in 1958 - essentially composed of raised, baked clay, engraved, stained or "tattooed", as he would say, pendants. At the same time, Jean Cocteau was working on a second metal collection, ceramics proving to be too fragile to withstand the models he had in mind.

With the help of Marie-Madeleine Jolly he prepared a series of sketches meant for his daughter Anne, a silversmith's student. He also drew little sculptures drawings meant to be made in bronze, which he named poem-objects.

Through lack of financial means, most of these treasures remained at the planning stage in the workshop.

According to Jean Cocteau's will, confirmed by late Edouard Dermit, his adopted son, Anne Madeline and her companion Patrick Laupin have decided to carry on his work.

Since 1992, in their workshop in Charmes-sur-Rhône, they have revived with love and respect what Jean Cocteau, as the great master of stroke, had dreamt of and imagined.

\*\*\*

"La Florentine" is part of the baked clay pendants series. Jean Cocteau was fascinated by the purity of Etruscan pottery

His jewellery models were inspired by it. "I dream" he said, "that these objects could be discovered by archaeologists..."

Woolen marqueteries are mural tapestries that are not woven but made of coloured felt pieces, cut up and finally embroidered along the original drawing. These models have been made at Madeline-Jolly's workshop and continued by their daughter Catherine, who received the support of late Edouard Dermit, Jean Cocteau's legatee.



Anne Madeline and Patrick Laupin in their workshop in Charmes-sur-Rhône

• “Le monde de Jean Cocteau”

(Jean Cocteau’s world)

de 22 de outubro a 24 de novembro 1997

Museu de Arte Brasileira - FAAP

Rua Alagoas, 903 - pacaembu São paulo - SP/ Brasil.



Jean Cocteau : “Le visage de la poésie” drawings with words made in pastels and black marker pen. 1960 Milly : exhibition invitation card. “Le monde de Jean Cocteau”(Jean Cocteau’s world).

• Prima Classe Alviero Martini Gallery

Via Napoleone 26 Milano/ Italy.



The press and audience welcomed this exhibition at the Prima Classe Alviero Martini gallery in Milan that gathered together Jean Cocteau’s ceramics, jewels and tapestries.

The exhibition was welcomed by an enthusiastic audience and extended for six days.

• La Pythie de Delphes

Jean Cocteau

Shiny bronze, plinth : carved stone



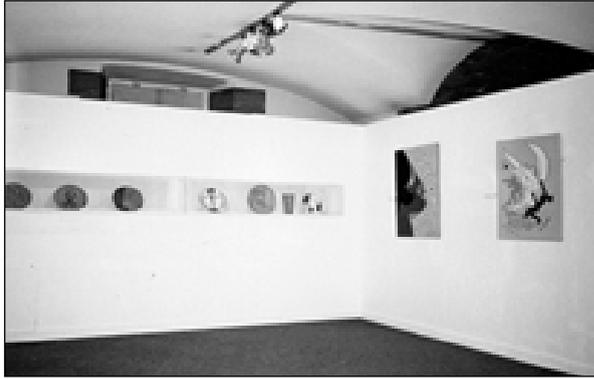
Various views of the exhibition “Le monde de Jean Cocteau” at the FAAP, museum de Arte Brasileira de Sao Paulo. Films, paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewels, poem-objects, jewellery and tapestries... are presented.



**L'éveil**  
**Jean Cocteau**  
*Poem-object*  
Polished and shiny bronze, stone plinth.



• Belfort History and Art museum



Above : view of the exhibition of the Belfort History and Art museum , on the right we see the wool marquetry made by Catherine Madeline from Jean Cocteau's drawings.

• Kirin Museum  
Osaka/ Japon.

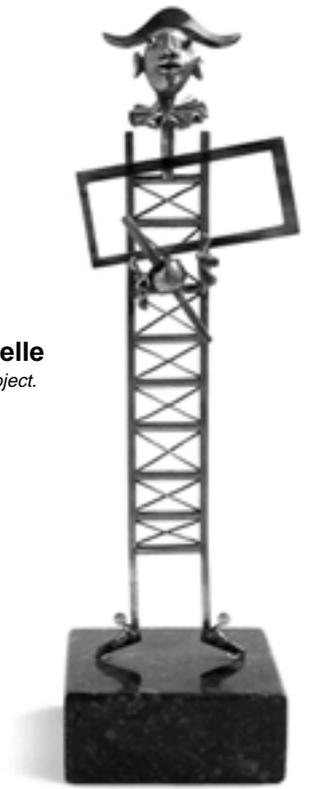


•Bunkamura Museum of Arts.  
Tokyo/ Japan.



Invitation card, 1995.  
The likeness between the poet's light stroke and Japanese calligraphy may be the key of Jean Cocteau's work success in the land of Rising Sun.  
A new exhibition is planned in 2001.

**Arlequin à l'échelle**  
*Jean Cocteau, Poem-object.*



• Prima Classe Alviero Martini galerie  
Milan/ Italy.



View of the "ceramiche e oggetti-scultura" exhibition at the Prima Classe Galerie in Milan.  
Among the sculptures, poem-objects, litographs and tapestries are exhibited Jean Cocteau's jewels made by Anne Madeline and Patrick Laupin.

...Main exhibitions  
ceramics, jewellery, poem-objects  
between 1991 and 2000

- 1991
- June : Galerie **Jean de la Fontaine**/ Château Thierry
  - November : **Galerie Reach'Art**/ Lyon
- 1992
- April-may : **Museo Camon Aznar Zaragoza**/ Espagne
  - May : **Galerie Jaques Royan**/ Lyon
- 1993
- Many tribute exhibitions for the 30th anniversary of the poet's death
  - October : **Galerie Anne Julien**/ Paris .
  - November-december : **Musée d'art et d'histoire**/ Belfort
  - December : **Cour des Loges**/ Lyon
- 1994
- June : **Château d'art**/ St Laurent des arbres
  - June-july : **Casino de Vals les bains**
  - July-september : **Galerie Martin Bres**/ Marseille
  - August : **Galerie Bonniec**/ Carnac
  - September : **Fondation Van-gogh**/ Aries
- 1995
- April : **Galerie Weill-Seligman**/ Paris
  - May-june : **Galerie Bagherra**/ St Tropez
  - July : **Galerie Les Calades**/ Avignon
  - July-august : **Galerie Phébus**/ Vals les Bains
  - " " : **Chapelle de la Charité**/ Pertuis
  - July-september : **Musée Bunkamura**/Tokyo Japon
  - September-october : **Takashimaya**/ Kyoto Japon
- 1996
- March : **Galerie Prima Classe Alviero Martini**/ Milano
  - June-september : **Musée du Château**/ Luneville
  - " " : **Casino de Spa**
  - July : **Carrefour des arts**/ Lalouvesc
  - July-august : **Galerie Phébus**/ Vals les Bains
  - July-september : **Festival de Bellac**
  - " " : **Galerie Mercure**/ Bézier
- 1997
- June-august : **Galerie Arcade Colette**/ Palais-royal/ Paris
  - June-september : **Hommage à Jean Cocteau**/ Aubagne
  - June-october : **Galerie Dutilleul**/ Albi .
  - July-september : **Galerie Chabanian le Baron**/ Annecy,  
Megève, Courchevel, St Paul de Vence
  - December-january : **Centre culturel Valery Larbaud**/ Vichy
- 1998
- March-april : **Galerie Fortunor + Galerie 30A** / Limoges
  - April-october : **Le Louvre des Antiquaires**/ Paris
  - July-august : **Galerie Mischkind**/ Lille
  - July-october : **Château de Vascoeuil**
- 1999
- March-april : **Galerie Raphael**/ Frankfurt
  - April-may : **Galerie Verein + Kunstzentrum Leonardo**/ Hambourg
  - June-september : **Château de Trévarez**/ St Goazec/ Finistere  
**Musée de l'Hélioscope**/ Rochefort-en-terre
  - July-august : **Mairie de St Briac**
  - December : **Galerie Regio**/ Bale
- 2000
- June-september : **Anciens Evéchés**/ Sarlat
  - June-september : **Galerie Arcade Colette**/ Palais-Royal/ Paris
  - September-october : **Galeria 3 Voûtes**/ Vaison-la-Romaine

Permanent galleries :

- **Galerie Anne Julien**/ Rue de Seine/ Paris
- **Musée du Bastion**/ Menton
- **Fondation Van-gogh**/ Arles



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Ginko, Annie Guédras...

-Graphic conception : P. Bonnard